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Ayestollah Khamenei comes down to nukes: NAGA delivers into the northern lights, and Deepa Hofer's Oscar-bound

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COVER: STEVE VERBURGH/FOREST; COUNTRY OF HARTING BAKER; THIS PAGE: PHOTOGRAPH BY GORD LERCHER

7 DAYS



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF SÉGUINE ROYAL

Last Thursday, the French Socialist party presidential hopeful was accused of dodging taxes. She then responded one of her aides after he joked on a TV talk show that her biggest hobby was her long-term partner, Socialist party chief François Hollande, with whom she has four children. Intrusions into her private life must stop, she said. On Tuesday, Stephen Harper criticized Royal for her public support of a sovereign Quebec, suggesting she would harm her own country's business.

Good news

Mahmoud swing

While Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was in Vancouver last week selling and shoring his economic strategy, Hagee Ghivres, signs of weakness appeared on the Iranian president's home front. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei wondered aloud whether Ahmadinejad had gone too far in his ambitious and anti-Western program. Ghivres were really in the country's best interests: a legitimate concern was that the UN has imposed limited sanctions against Iran, European bankers are backing away from the Iranian market, and domestic prices are soaring. Candidates on the president's ticket were badly reamed in recent local elections, and a coalition of 150 parliamentarian members berated him for playing international politics while failing to protect his budget on time. We encourage Ghivres to remind Ali Khamenei of another Iranian leader before the year's end.

Out of Africa

In a week when CIDA was criticized for pulling back on a program that has protected those wards of African youth from modern, it was heartening to note that our politicians are still committed to doing good work abroad. On Friday, Health Minister Tony Clement was in Nairobi for the opening of a \$4 million zone-of-the-art infection data center laboratory paid for primarily by the Canadian government. Researchers at the facility will study tribal diseases, including Ebola and HIV, and develop immunizations for responding quickly to outbreaks.

Baby love

After years of alleging pro-pornographic practices, the Toronto Police have announced that they

Empire strikes again

Life in North Korea has been great this winter. Harsh temperatures have killed hundreds, including an entire village. In a cruelly deft effort to feed its hungry, the country has published its purchase of giant Korean rabbits. Diplomats spoke of resuming talks on the nation's nuclear program. But any glimmer of hope was lost Tuesday when the no-nonsense regime blamed the deployment of U.S. stealth jets to South Korea on a

Bad news

leak in particular. Otherwise, the rest of Canada didn't seem too concerned either about the crisis, in which 26 windows were smashed. According to the poll, 47 per cent of the rest of Canada are at least "somewhat racist." too

Seeking scapegoats

Consumers keep thinking for the usual their children's use-of-obscurely-nasty goods and services. On Monday, a U.S. AIDS treatment group filed a lawsuit against pharmaceutical giant Pfizer. According to the group, the company's campaign to check all campaigns for Viagra encourage recreational use of the erectile dysfunction medication, particularly among gay men, and has led to a higher prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases. This, despite the fact that Viagra is a prescription-only drug that comes packaged with warnings about its inability to protect users against STDs. Similarly, the families of five teenage girls are suing the networking website MySpace for negligence and fraud, claiming the girls were sexually assaulted by men they met on the site. But parents wouldn't let a child spend time with a stranger unattended in the real world. Why should their duties end online?

FACE OF THE WEEK



WILLIAMS GET GAME: Seven-time grand slam champion Serena Williams celebrates her victory at the Ashtabula Open.

London (Ont.) calling

Three Canadian stars were named for Oscar in major categories, but the real star was London, Ont. Not only is the city the birthplace of Ryan Reynolds, now listed for his role as a drug-dealer teacher in *Half Nelson*, it's also the home of Paul Haggis, nominated for his work on the screenplay for *Crash*. *Crash* director Denzel Washington, who has a London connection, is also nominated for Best Actor. In 2006, he was given an honorary degree by the University of Western Ontario for his pioneering roles and outstanding work.

"It's a challenge to the process to have genuine dialogue and peace." Under Kim Jong Il's regime, it's business as usual.

Race to the bottom

Canadian Islamic groups are rightly outraged that the vandalism of a Muslim school in Montreal did not trigger more public concern. But the public's apathy is not surprising, given the results of a recent survey by Legor Marketing, which found that 59 per cent of Quebecers admit to being somewhat racist. Fifty per cent of Quebecers say they have a poor opinion of Islam.

Unsentimental fool

Nearly 15 years after presenting his framed French Pierre Trudeau 1900 autographing a reproduction copy of the 1960 Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Montreal publisher Robert Dumas has posted his prized piece of Trudeau memorabilia on eBay, alongside used concert tickets and old-timey chewing gum. The bidding starts at US\$6,000. So far, we've played to report, there are no takers. ■

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CAROL WATKINS/GETTY IMAGES

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON AN MP'S NEW WIFE
AND A DAUGHTER NAMED AFTER A HOTEL

LUBA GOY in new guise

FUR FLIES AT
MP'S WEDDINGS

Partha Anderson would not have been invited. There was a lot of fur at the wedding of Toronto Liberal MP Boris Wrzesniewski and his bride, Luba Goya. The Bytownite-rite ceremony took place at the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto on Jan. 30. Goya's name, the maid of honour, and her white fur jacket was fake fur. So was the profile coat worn by guest Luba Goya of the Royal Canadian Air Force. And while Capital Diary is aware of the nation's story of the manning who fur worn by the bride as she rapidly crossed the sanctuary, it was impossible not to notice the vast array of pelts female guests kept on throughout the service in this chilly church. The Register of Marriages book listed the 46-year-old MP as "never married."

MP'S WEDDING: Wrzesniewski and Goya



"Ukrainian Catholic" and his occupation as "Member of Parliament" (the 39-year-old bride was listed as "Advocate") and "Ukrainian Orthodox"—there was no hint on the book to fill in the bride's occupation. Before the former Canadian publisher of Evening News, a Ukrainian newspaper published in both Ukraine and Canada, and currently has managerial duties at Pabst Bakery. Wrzesniewski is the owner of Pabst Bakery, a Toronto institution whose down town locations (and delectable pastries and breads) attract both an old-world clientele and urban hipsters. As the couple exited the church, they were pelted with wheat kernels, a tradition imported from the grain producing Ukraine. MP Mark Holland (Ajax-Pickering) quipped that it could also be taken to support for maintaining the Canadian Wheat Board in the Conservative government to dismantle it. No real point was drawn.

TURNS OUT THE
MOHAWK WAS A
REALLY BAD IDEA

Steez MPs are absent from the House for most of January, but have had the run of the place. Both



JUSTIN PARLIAMENT: Trudeau (above), Balch and Meghan (top right), Joe and Canada President

Laurent and Queen's universities held model parliament sessions this month. Sadly, since few students had a Blackberry, they were denied the modern parliamentary experience. Instead, they actually had to listen to speeches and pay attention. The lack of BlackBerry tips also meant the real parliamentenary pages were worked to the bone, passing important notes. Laurent's Conservative PM Stephen Harper, for instance, received a picture of his head on Stephen Harper's body wearing the human leather vest, courtesy of a student blog member. The Queen's model parliament had the actual Speaker of the House, Peter Milliken, whose Kingston, Ont., riding included the university. He read the Queen's students' speech from the throne, which noted that the students were sitting in the very seats held by such great Canadians as Rine Campbell and Carolyn Parrillo. At that session, Joseph Queen's student Chris Harrison, co-chair of the campaign NDP group, served as leader of the NDP. He'd grown his first mustache for the occasion. It took him a month. Queen's trade at Dave Balch shaved his hair into a mohawk the day he face his model



parliament. Kingston was B.C. when he left Ottawa was 27 when he arrived. A massive mid-induced headache taught him why even a crash-over can be justified in the capital during winter. Joe Prime, the real minister of Indian Affairs and northern development, acted as speaker for the Queen's students on their first day when his daughter, Cassia Prime, was presenting a bill. At last year's model parliament, Cassia held her father's current portfolio. Prime joked that this could be the first time a father has followed his daughter in politics. Cassia studies English at Queen's. "People always ask me why I don't do a political degree," she says. "When it's your entire home life, you don't want to hear about it at school." Cassia's mother was inspired by a trip her parents took to the Caribbean island of St. Vincent. "The class was at the time common course for all. But basically I am inspired after the band they say it." She says she has tried to avoid doing the math, but thinks that a little where she was concerned. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa updates in no context: Mitchell Raphael will visit www.mitchellraphael.com

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL RAPHAEL

Stéphane Dion's awkward high-school reunion



PAUL WELLS

"It seems my heart to be back at my alma mater," Stéphane Dion said, beaming. An audience full of high school students at Collège St. Charles Garnier in Quebec City stared back at him blankly. Tough room.

St. Charles Garnier is one of the finest private schools in Quebec's old capital, a former Jesuit college that can trace its roots, with long interruptions, as far back as 1634. Dion, the new leader of the federal Liberals, is hardly in any obvious discomfort. Here Lévesque, for example, watches before him how Dion is one of the few from around here who went on to a career in federal politics, and who returns, at intervals, to teach about Canada at anything resembling a good idea.

He was Jean Charest's noble mentor of intergovernmental affairs when it followed him here in 1997 on a two-day trip through the Quebec City region. A history teacher once told me it was the first time in 15 years he'd ever seen a federal politician address the students. It showed. Dion's little home has no Canadian issues met with disapproval, even derision, from their little class.

As he has changed? This time Dion was back as the new leader of his party, to welcome Liberal MPs and senators to his hometown for a caucus retreat. At Charles Garnier, he faced hundreds of teenagers, some of whom might get a chance to vote if a federal election was held next year. The reception was polite, if not particularly warm. A few young separatists in waiting tossed homages about the Clarity Act, which according to one young man, "imprisons and punishes Quebec." Dion had a lot of practice with such questions. He deflected this one with little smiles. The atmosphere was no applause for his question, but Dion did for his answer. So, progress. Never any mention though Quebec commentators who predicted Dion would collapse support for the Liberals in

Quebec dropped that prediction as quickly as they deeply could when it failed to happen (Dion's Cadern, one of the programs of Quebec dissolved after Dion's surprise victory at the leadership convention, was everywhere at the caucus meeting, almost mindfully clipped—and springing a new beard, an immense proportion.) The current issue (and poll) shows Dion's Liberals at 28 per cent in Quebec, 30 points ahead of Stephen Harper's Tories and up about five from their score last autumn—a reflection of the fact that no voter like foreign affairs and the environment. Dion speaks a language Quebecers understand. So to speak.

But 28 per cent is still well shy of Justice Liberal support in the province. Jean Charest

is a little strange. Well, normal for someone that it's not so long ago that it was like that in Quebec. Tell yourself that it was only in the 1990s that women won the right to vote."

Harmon topics of conversation, of course, was neither the Clarity Act nor the clash of civilizations, but the hard environmentalism that has career took a couple of years ago. These days he is all about carbon acquisition and cap-and-trade schemes and the "phonetic challenge" of keeping Alberta's oil sands booming while maintaining the intensive jobs of carbon dioxide they have into the biotechnology atmosphere.

His MPs are quite aware what to make of him. This sounds more than probably in a small Canadian Alliance MPs being aware



It was 'anarchy,' he said. 'The boys were a 'long-haired generation without girls to civilize us'

also got 33 per cent of the vote here in 1991, and managed to elect only 29 MPs. So one of the many questions facing Dion in Quebec is the next election, however it comes, is whether he can get those numbers back up to where they used to be. For now, it seems to remain an open question.

He is proud to move without a parent, now, which makes him an interesting but often mysterious speaker. He told the students that when he entered their school in 1967 it was a strict Jesuit school. But by the time he left in 1975 it was "anarchy." The boys for there were only boys then formed a "long-haired generation" without girls or social classes. "And without girls to civilize us." Suddenly his Age of Aquarius remembering morphed into counsel on how to deal with teenage populations.

"You meet people your age who arrive in Canada, who settle in Quebec, who arrive here in a very religious mode, who have precise precepts they have to follow. You find in

lately the masculinity Stephen Harper in 2002, and look how that turned out. But once the great majority of Liberals are not, by nature, expand trade or acquiescence, these days they are also looking for other means to torment the Conservatives with. Some believe it is Stephen Harper's decision to dismiss Paul Martin's planned network of fancy day centres. Others are sure it is Harper's war in Afghanistan. They really don't want to hear that Harper's modest monthly fees for every parent of a young child might be more popular. Or that Afghanistan was Charest's and Martin's and Bill Graham's war before it was Harper's. Stéphane Dion's first big challenge is not his long hair. Right or wrong, it is the federal convention seeing many of his troops that do not want an accident that will correct itself. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells' visit his blog at www.wells.ca/lebensblog



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A TRIAL LIKE NO OTHER

The trial of Robert Padden, charged with six counts of first-degree murder, begins on Monday, Jan. 30, in New Westminster, B.C., and is expected to last a week. He will face 26 counts of first-degree murder in a second trial.

- 1 Padden arrives at the courthouse in the first police car
- 2 Sinder Grogan, whose sister Janet Henry is one of the missing, leaves
- 3 The Crown prosecutors arrive at the courthouse
- 4 Rob Ryan, cousin of George Ryan, who Padden is accused of killing, heads out after a fight
- 5 TV reporters prepare for broadcast from the media tents
- 6 Native drummers and singers outside the courthouse
- 7 Murray Watson, the ex-boyfriend of Helen Hallmark, speaks to reporters
- 8 Lynn Frey, stepmother of Marie Frey, and Marie's daughter Emory
- 9 The only protesters with placards on the first day. See story on page A2

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIAN HOWELL



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ROGERS



'No one should have to participate in the war if they don't want to. I've been there and I did it. I shouldn't spend a day in jail.'

JOSHUA KEY, U.S. ARMY DESERTER AND CANADIAN REFUGEE APPLICANT, TALKS TO KATE FILLION ABOUT HOW HE CROSSED THE LINE IN IRAQ

Q You were 24, with two children and a baby on the way when you joined the U.S. army in 2002. Why did you sign up?

A It was a lot of money to have money for college and rewards. I just wanted a steady paycheck, health care for my children and to be in something bigger, you might say.

Q You're talking about what the army could do for you. What did you think you were going to do for the army?

A I was told I'd be building bridges, so I figured I would build bridges to the most secure that I could.

Q In your book, you say you were promised you wouldn't see combat. But this was after 9/11, when just about everybody in the world was expecting some kind of serious American military action. Why did you think you'd be exempted?

A I guess, for the most part, because as soon as there was a military war and military operations was the one thing. I'd go to a non-deployable base. That way, my suspension because at that time there was a link talk of Iraq, but as far as I know, I was going back to Gaffney, Ohio. I never really watched the news or kept track of what was going on.

Q After you finished that camp and it was clear you were going to be sent to Iraq, you say you were ready to go to war. What had changed?

A Weapons of mass destruction, I think that scared everyone. I was scared for my

family. Saddam Hussein was an evil tyrant. Through the military, and even when I was a kid in the first Gulf War, I knew he was a person who needed to be dealt with. The way the military made it sound, the way it looked, was, I'd rather go into Iraq than to see when my kids go to school, there have to go into the army or it.

Q You describe a pretty appalling thing as children in Iraq for soldiers in your unit. You didn't have to go, you had no choice. What was your thought when you were told that?

A Going into it, I had a completely different representation of what would happen and how it would be. I didn't think that we'd be living in the middle of a crisis, bombed out police, and just making a place to lay your head. I didn't think we'd be living in the Mawana center, of course.

Q You grew up poor, watched your mother be beaten by your stepfather, and being quite at home with guns and fighting. Given what you know of the world and human behavior, didn't you expect some pretty bad behavior from your fellow soldiers?

A To an extent. We were all trained in the same way, we're taught things, put very tightly about the Geneva Convention. But even from watching movies, some things do happen in war, but some things are not as good as that. There's a line, and a lot of people crossed that line in Iraq.

Q You served 6½ months in Iraq, then returned when you were back in the U.S. as

free, and came to Canada. Last November the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) rejected your claim for asylum. And you're appealing that ruling. Where does your case stand now?

A The paperwork has been filed, the appeal is in process, and I stay hopeful. I'm hoping for a provision for all of us deserters to say I don't know exactly what steps follow the appeal, but if it's denied, I'll keep fighting.

Q You told the IRB that you witnessed and participated in restrictive in Iraq. Civilians have been executed and destroyed for no reason. Children being killed. And you say you saw U.S. soldiers who'd executed four Iraqis taking their heads around like soccer balls. The IRB decided these were "isolated cases." Were they?

A No. I wouldn't say isolated at all. **Q** So how are all these atrocities being covered up?

A Of course some of them have not been. They're being coming out, I read this. But a lot of them, there's no record, a lot of people don't say anything.

Q Why didn't you report those soldiers taking the decapitated heads around?

A Every time I did ask questions on other incidents, I was told, "Oh, it's none of your business, don't worry about it." I didn't know the rule, you might say. What could I do? I was just a private first class.

Q If those events aren't isolated, there must be a lot of other soldiers who've witnessed

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES C. HARRIS

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES C. HARRIS

19

inside things. Why are relatively few of them deserting the army?

A: It's like another world. I guess a lot of people when they come back from war never talk about it at all, then they start having symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, which I would say 96 per cent will, especially if they're in a combat area. And a lot of times it's easier to try to forget.

Q: A lot of Canadians here sympathize for your sons on the legitimacy of the war, but nevertheless would say, "Well, you signed up for the army, you weren't forced into it, and therefore you have a duty either to complete your contract or take the consequences you agreed to when you signed up."

A: Well, that's an unexcused withdrawal war. Of course, to myself, there was nothing but loss and degradation from the start [when they said we wouldn't see combat]. But when I went to Iraq I was willing to go and I was ready to go defend my country [What I did there was] not defending my country. That's doing

five years. Why not just return to the U.S., save yourself 'em, and take your chances? Other deserters have gotten off lightly, like Darrell Anderson, who was held for three days, then given a less-than-honorable discharge.

A: I know it goes case by case, so what happened to him might not happen to another one. Second of all, I just think it would be immoral for anyone to have to not just for something they believe is morally wrong. No one should have to participate in the war if they don't want to, especially not myself. I've been there, I've seen it, and I did it. I shouldn't have to spend one day in jail.

Q: If you had an iron-clad guarantee that the U.S. military would not make you serve again, would you return to the United States?

A: I would still have to say no. I was in a combat [with the army] that was based on lies. Whatever they said and so on, I don't know if they'd follow through or not. Of course I would have to go see my mother and my brother, but as far as living in the country, I

would never do that. For everything I've learned, everything I witnessed in Iraq, everything I've been through, I would say that a lot of things would have to be made, and I don't know if they'd change. I have faith in the Canadian government, and I think they'll do the right thing.

Q: Why do you have faith in the Canadian government?

A: I guess you would have to say I know how hard in the Canadian people. I think there's a lot more deserters here and people here a lot more about what's going on in the world in general. The Canadian fight for what they believe in. Back home, people seem to want to believe what their government says and not really ask questions, sure not as much as they should.

Q: You're now quite a bit of Canada. You lived in Toronto, then B.C., and now you're in Saskatoon. Why all the moves?

A: I'm looking for the place that needs me of home.

Q: So there's something about the United States that you miss.

A: Oh, yeah. I miss my country and I love my people, that's never been a problem. It's just that I don't go along with the government. In Canada I've just tried to find that equal place. Saskatchewan more like Oklahoma, terraces and people live, though of course the war was a lot different.

Q: How are you and your wife supporting each other?

A: You get a work permit, you get health care through the federal health. I work half the time as a welder, sometimes I do other things. I stay busy.

Q: You have to be one of the few soldiers in Canada who's written a book. What do you as workers think?

A: It's different, when someone tells you what you do in your spare time, and you say, "I've been working as a book." It's quite shocking to some. I don't answer unless the question is asked.

Q: Typically Canada accepts refugees fleeing from countries where there are conceptual rates around 100 per cent. Why do you think an exception should be made in your case?

A: I know it looks weird, I've felt it myself when I go places and tell them I'm applying for refugee status and they look at me like I'm crazy because I can speak perfect English. Of course, they want to know why and ask questions and things. Some understood and some don't. I think every person should have the right to ask refugee status, just because I volunteered into it, and everything was lies and I went to an illegal and immoral war, they should take all of it into account.

Q: The US and while it's true you'll likely be over-qualified in the U.S., you won't be over-qualified in your field and several professions.

A: There's nothing that they do that I don't know exactly what would happen or what would be happen.

Q: The US really also said that private you didn't know what was going to happen to the men you captured in your time. You weren't captured as a soldier, as you did not in your refugee class.

A: I think that I was completely confident and involved, regardless of if I was sitting there and being the one doing it, as if I was just the one that took them from the home and made them get on the truck.

Q: What do you see yourself doing in five years?

A: Oh, man. I just want to live a nice, peaceful life, and I hope that I can obtain that here in Canada. ■

U.S. army spokesman John P. Boyer Jr. denied any charges of misconduct, and even rejected any claims for a settlement, and even rejected any claims to do so. "Over 100,000 soldiers received allegations of detainee mistreatment and other battlefield offenses to date. The army is ensuring that all soldiers live up to the army values and adhere to the Law of War." For an excerpt from Ray's book, The Deserter's Tale, see page 33.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERTA ROY



I love my country and I love my people, that's never been my problem. But I don't get along with the government.'

nothing but creating more problems for my country in the future. And I said no, I should be able to walk away from it. Back home, the senators, the congressmen, the President, they don't need their children to go fight.

Q: A lot of readers of your own family have called you a coward and a traitor.

A: Most of them won't leave to the whole mess. I guess that's one of the problems, they just live in the news. The whole country, the whole media, the President is telling them things that are different from what I'm telling them, from actually being on the ground. My family just thought it was like the first Gulf War. They don't want to, "No, you should've been back."

Q: The wilderness is a great place to live, but it's not a great place to live in a combat area.



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NATIONAL



AT THE G2 summit in St. Petersburg last July, Harper pressed leaders to follow the Canadians' draft statement of Lebanon. They did.

THE HARPER DOCTRINE

Incoherent or inspired, the PM's foreign policy is off to a surprising, controversial start

BY PETER SHAWNY ENLOR • "Why should you focus your attention and your resources on Canada's 'belligerent' meddling? Stephen Harper demanded of a blue-chip crowd at the Economic Club of New York last fall. "Because," the Prime Minister declared, "Canada intends to be a player." Canada is a force for good, he argued. Together with his allies, he promised to advance "our shared values and interests throughout the world." Bold talk for a leader with a shaky minority government and only eight months of an on-the-job experience.

Prime ministers and presidents, it is often observed, come to office promising to solve domestic problems, and leave it focused on world affairs. Such has been the case, recently, with George W. Bush and Tony Blair.

Stephen Harper, with his belligerence at the Economic Club, and his actions on foreign affairs in his first year, seems to have gotten the race back to front. His successful 2006 election platform devoted just two pages to foreign issues. Since then, it's been consistent: endless analysis and media acrobatics to both of his own admission as the work of an "indefatigable" minister. One expert with

an insider's view on world diplomacy, however, is giving Harper credit for a remarkably successful rookie season in foreign policy. Another sees him following in the 10-year-old footsteps of one of Canada's most controversial prime ministers, John Diefenbaker.

Harper has clearly made a splash in his first year. The Prime Minister identified himself closely with the war in Afghanistan and a stronger Canadian military. He staked out a clear position on the murky politics of the Middle East: supporting Israel, condemning Palestinian terrorist organizations and cutting off funding to the Hamas-led Palestinian government. The Tories delivered on a soft word kum-ba-hum deal with the U.S. but have also

ON CHINA, CABINET MINISTERS FORGE TRADE LINKS WHILE THE PM COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

had surprisingly strong north-south relations ranging from the Northwest Passage and corn subsidies to the deportation of Maher Arar.

The only other title to receive substantial attention so far has been China, though Canadian business leaders were agitated when Harper decided to focus on human rights instead of trade. He previously awarded honorary citizenship to the Dalai Lama of Tibet and declared he would never tell out his beliefs in democracy and freedom for "the strength dollar." This led to a reported

spat with the Chinese government and consultations to setting up an initial meeting between Harper and Hu Jintao, China's president. Last week, Harper dispatched two top-level cabinet members, International Trade Minister David Emerson and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, to rebuild the trade side of Canada's relationship with China.

To critics, Harper's is a case approach to foreign policy that has damaged the long-standing Canadian reputation for polite usefulness. "International observers must be quite puzzled by the incoherence of Canada's new foreign policy," says Robert Wille, professor of political science at Queen's University's School for Policy Studies. "Sometimes I wonder whether we even have one." With just four more years of interest so far and no counterpart statements on broader foreign policy objectives, Wille sees contradictions and contradictions. "They scold China on Tibet, yet you would never catch Harper making many comments about Guantanamo," he chafes.

Paul Heinbecker, a former Canadian ambassador to the UN, now at the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo, Ont., approves of a beefed-up military and tough talk toward the Americans, but is troubled by the contradictions over the Middle East and China. Favouring liberal human rights at home, Heinbecker figures, has served no purpose on the world stage. "I really don't like to see anyone playing democratic politics with structure territorial issues," he says. "They now not very much appear to have launched themselves into a world affair without sufficient circumstances."

Wille and Heinbecker reflect something of a consensus from the ivory tower—Harper's

background in apolitical politics, with emphasis on a few major issues, has been poor training for the multiple nuances of international diplomacy. This accounts away from the familiar Liberal tradition of soft power and eager multilateralism is lamented by those who feel such policies defined Canada. Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay's chilly reaction in Jordan last week undercuts the odds of taking liberal complex conflicts.

If there is a minority voice in academia, it comes from John Kirton, a University of Toronto politics professor, director of the G1 Research Group part of the World Centre for International Studies and author of the new book *Canadian Foreign Policy: A Changing World*. Kirton argues that Harper is choosing either inexperienced or ineffectual on international issues in his first year. He explains that Harper has created a recognizable agenda focused on democracy, human rights and open markets, and insists that Canada is well on its way to becoming a principal power in the world. All this said, Kirton sees shortcomings in plans most Canadians would never think to look.

Kirton was an insider at the St. Petersburg, Russia, G8 Summit in July; the Prime Minister asked his opinion on the team's performance. "When the summit began, I was due that the situation in Lebanon was growing worse and the G8 would have to make some sort of statement on the conflict," Kirton says. "The Russian host had prepared a statement including requests that called on all parties to cease fire, accept responsibility, the usual stuff. Harper got them and said 'this is normal.' The Canadian delegates went to work on a counter draft—evolution of all current positions—and produced a statement that made it clear a counter group had found first and absolute limits to be taken."

Harper guided the G8 leaders to follow the Canadian draft and the final result suggests he got what he wanted. "The countries must immediately take three steps," the communiqué reads. "The only significant change to the Canadian draft, according to Kirton, was Putin's omission of the description of Syria and Iraq as sponsors of terrorism. "He said it would leave his life bloody," he recalls."

Canada's tougher stand on the conflict spread to other global organizations, says Kirton. In enhanced former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan's comments a week later. And when Harper was at the bi-annual in Philadelphia meetings in August in September, he spent blocked plans to visit a southern African group of Israel. Being in the world's top group for Israel is a strategy in a key component of Harper's foreign policy.

discipline. "The international community is adjusting to what Canada wants," Kirton insists, with the best of a doubt.

Harper has even managed to set foreign policy to his advantage at home by casting himself as an occasional adversary to the Acer society, Kirton says, underlining pre-election criticism that he would carry up to the Bush administration. And his support for Canadian-environmentalists—fired from the evacuation of 15,000 Canadians in Lebanon to the heat at the core of the Chernobyl fire—has reinforced his reputation as a defender of Canadian interests at home and abroad.

Kirton says his glowing assessment of the Harper Doctrine has been met mostly by strained response from his colleagues. "It kind of has a general take on things that I find surprising," deadpan Holmboe says. "It seems

a former resident minister with the Malabar Times. "This is not a case of human rights at trade. We must have both." The Chinese trade mission is an attempt to address some of Beijing's complaints. The government now appears to be following a "two-track" approach in which cabinet ministers pursue trade talks while the Prime Minister comments on human rights. That said, Kirton's speech in Beijing to the Chinese business community still managed to squeeze in a lecture for the home. "Open discussion and engagement in these broader issues of democracy and human rights" should not conflict with commercial interests, he told his audience.

Fred Young, co-CEO of the Asia-Pac Fe Foundation, a think tank based in Vancouver, sees the new approach as a necessary compromise. "We know the arguments of the Harper government are democracy, human rights, freedom and rule of law. But China is not a democracy and it doesn't show any signs of moving in that direction. So how do you deal with that reality?" In coming to terms with this dilemma, Evans sees Harper following a path similar to John Diefenbaker.

"Both Diefenbaker and Harper come to power through opposition," observes Evans. "And both had a very valiant effort to win over the world view." While Diefenbaker is remembered mostly for his vacillations and inability to oust his own party, he was a major figure in Canadian foreign policy. During the federal minister of Indian Affairs, Tony Harkin, and his Big Bear speech, Merchant Law Group (MLG), claim compensation as much as 13,000 former students of the church and state-run Aboriginal education system. But Jon Justice says the law firm can provide proof that it has carried out the work. "It will be before Ottawa will pay for a half-century legal act. As long as I live the statute, Mr. Merchant will not get more money than they can get to not subject to work."

"He told *Maclean's* this week. "The residential school survivors have proven their entitlement to compensation. Tony Merchant hasn't."

Prime Minister's tough talk at the latest salvo in ongoing court fight over Merchant's role in a historic deal that will see Ottawa pay out as much as \$1 billion in compensation to survivors who were taken from their families as children and placed in schools rich with physical and sexual abuse. An agreement to verify MLG's list fell apart last winter when Merchant refused to give government's hired forensic accountants any further access to his files, alleging they were violating superior client privilege. In December, the *Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench* ruled that argument, but ruled that the deal to open the books would cost between \$15 to \$40 million. In other words, the cost



TONY MERCHANT: A deal to verify his fees fell apart when he denied the high access

NOT 'ONE RED PENNY'

Ottawa battles a high-powered lawyer over opening his books

owed that Tony Merchant is entitled to a \$25 million pay-out on his word alone. Ottawa is opposing that decision.

The legal maneuvering that left names groups fearful that implementation of the settlement, which resolved half-century-old lawsuits, could be indefinitely delayed. The first round of payouts—an average of \$23,000 for each of the estimated 80,000 survivors—was scheduled to begin this coming August or September. But Phil Fox, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, says former students, many of whom are now elderly and ill, can't afford any further wrangling. "We lose an average of four per day," he says. "That is a matter between the government and Mr. Merchant. The survivors should be put in the middle." The AFN is asking the government to promptly pay Merchant his money and more on "Everyone around the table

THE FIRST RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL PAYOUTS WILL AVERAGE \$23,000, BUT NATIVES NOW FEAR A DELAY

against the agreement. It was approved by cabinet," says Fox. "And we said it was a fair and just agreement for all parties, including lawyers."

Merchant did not respond to *Maclean's* requests for an interview, but he has previously said that his fee was not to be paid until the compensation agreement is put in place. His firm has asked for \$100 million to the federal appeal.

Prime Minister's office will be asking the courts to "sever" the fee issue, and allow the rest of the deal to proceed as scheduled. "I don't want to see any delay," he says. But the taxpayer must also be protected, he argues. And the law has been drawn at a single cost. ■



A COOL WELCOME: PRIME MINISTER PETER MACKEY IN THE WHITE HOUSE

traditional allies such as the U.S. and Britain are paying more attention to Canada. But in particular has been glowing as the most consistent of Canada. Behind the scenes, Kirton says Harper has been working hard to build a new relationship with France. Not up, he looks for Harper to broaden the focus of his foreign policy into new areas such as the Caribbean, Africa and the environment.

To do, the only sign that the government is prepared to come from the latest Harper doctrine comes in response to China. "China has been the weak point in the government's foreign policy performance," says Peter Henry, president and CEO of the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, and

MLG's top lawyer in 1995 to 1998. He worked closely with Canada's traditional ally, passionately defended human rights and democracy, and defended South African apartheid and was a strong critic of Communism in the U.S. & R. & L.

But Diefenbaker was also a proponent who was prepared to trade with China and China it was his own at home. In fact, Henry looked Diefenbaker in his plan to the first year government. "The Diefenbaker fought his whole life for human rights. He led charges on South Africa and was a very strong anti-Communist," he says. "He would've never let that slide to the Chinese."

LIKE THE TRAINS RUMBLING TO AUSCHWITZ

Where the deal was the United Nations' followed its first report every for UNICEF in Africa, the British Lions, 1947 award in Ottawa. Lewis said in report that 335,000 children were newly infected with HIV in 2006. Like the former in Sudan, those children, Lewis said, "like the trains rumbling down the tracks to Auschwitz and everywhere else, they don't know what the trains were carrying."



RETURN OF THE FLQ?

A new missile from a so-called cell is more violent than its last

BY MARTIN PATRICKSON • The criminal, anonymously mailed and delivered to about a dozen on the same day, a challenge to the FLQ. "We will use a new kind of body-snatched vehicle and weapons and severely damaged explosives," it reads. "We will focus on strategic targets, including ports, railway tracks, airports, water and gas facilities. It is possible that there will be killed and wounded." The bombing will take place between February and March 19th. Delivered on Jan. 19 to a number of media, telephone, politicians, as well as Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and French President Jacques Chirac, the words are the latest salvo from a group claiming to be a newly formed cell of the FLQ, the now-defunct Quebec nationalist terrorist group.

The Integrated National Security Unit, formed in the wake of 9/11, has now questioned a number of well-known separatists, including former Movement for Liberation Nationale du Québec member Pierre-Louis Bégin and Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste president Jean Doron, who could not be reached for comment. This is the second franchise to be called Canada's latest cell of the FLQ. The first was founded on Nov. 19 the 19th anniversary of the Parti Québécois's first election victory. The group was long known as Montreal's Wolf Island, the traditional English and Icelandic enclave. "The first one wasn't nearly as violent," a police source close to the investigation said, "but the strong language is likely to not put the cell to rest." The quality of French in both missives, the source notes, is perfect, they were likely written by an educated person with an eye for detail.

"When I read the correspondence, I identified the names who read *White Mages of America*," said Patrick Bourgeois, publisher of the investigation journal *Le Québec*, who was also interviewed by police. "I will write them together. It is serious. The answer is to go to the police." He added that he was not going to disclose the names of the authors. "I don't think of any other way to get the names of the authors who would write this and think it's serving the separatist cause." ■

U.S. voters seem ready to elect a black president. Barack Obama is counting on it.

BY LUIZA CH. SAVAGE

IN ALL OF U.S. HISTORY, ONLY FIVE AFRICAN Americans have ever been elected to the U.S. Senate. Two, however, were elected during the post-Civil War period, when some Confederate soldiers were actually banned by law from voting. That means that, as long as white folks have had a say, it's been only three—and the youngest African Senate Barack Hussein Obama. What makes anyone seriously believe the Americans are ready to elect a black man to the White House?

Yet believe they do. The 45-year-old lawyer from Chicago with the Harvard pedigree and handsome potential has riled some Democratic sworn with excitement. He's drawing comparisons to John F. Kennedy. His elegant lawyer wife, Michelle, the mother of two adorable little girls who run each morning at 6:30 to run on a treadmill, is out to jockey. Even before Obama launched a campaign on Jan. 16 to "inspire" his possible candidacy, he'd been named in the biggest threat to what was supposed to be the coronation of Hillary Rodham Clinton, junior and former first lady, who last Saturday officially announced the race with the announcement that she is "in to win."

Obama is planning a formal announcement for Feb. 10 in Springfield, Ill.—the home of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican presi-



OBAMA after a White House meeting between Bush and members of Congress

dent who fired the shot. Few people had heard of him before the self-described "skinny kid with the funny name" gave a stirring closing address at the 2004 Democratic Convention in Boston, in which he called on Americans to unite as "one people." Now, the son of a white Korean mother and a Kenyan immigrant is polling better than Clinton in the early primary states of New Hampshire and Iowa (although in those early stages Clinton has a solid lead in national polls, with Obama second and John Edwards, the former vice-presidential nominee, running third). Obama is drawing the money and backing of high-profile former Hillary supporters such as Illinoisan George Soros and entertainment mogul Oprah Winfrey, whose Sept. 16er declared, "If he would run, I would do everything in my power to campaign for him." Will anything become of him going on in American racial politics, as a lot of smart people are just debating themselves.

It would, of course, be foolish to pretend there is not a lot of American racial history Obama has to transcend. He and many of his enthusiasts are too young to remember the civil rights battles that still loom large in the living memory of many Americans. In 1965, half the population of Alabama was black, but only two per cent were registered voters because white authorities verbalized to keep it that way. When Alabama's officials watched at prayer, police on horseback furiously attacked them with tear gas, clubs and whips. When Shirley Chisholm became the first African American and the first woman to run for president in 1972, her efforts were largely symbolic. When Jesse Jackson Jr., son for the Democratic nomination in 1984, he came in third and won a handful of southern primaries. Four years later, he managed to come in second. Since then, there has been only the 2004 ill-fated presidential candidacy of the Rev. Al Sharpton, and he has lost and now lives near manager for James Brown.

But today, there are numerous signs suggesting that, yet, the voting public is ready to elect a black candidate—at least the right black candidate—to govern them. Those signs are both small and big. They don't mean that Obama will necessarily be chosen into party's candidate, let alone the highest office in the land. But if he loses, he will have more to blame than his race.

For starters, take the numbers. Asked whether Americans ready to elect a black man, Donna Brazile, the former campaign manager for Al Gore's 2000 presidential bid, notes that "The national polls suggest we are prepared to elect a qualified African or minority candidate." For example, a Rasmussen poll

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO THE WHITE HOUSE

of likely Democratic voters this month showed Obama leading the field, with 32 and 31 per cent support respectively. An ABC News poll found 45 per cent of Democrats favour Clinton, with Obama in second place with 28 percent. Another poll, 41 per cent of independents said they didn't really know enough about him, suggesting Obama has plenty of room to grow (or disappoint).

Until now, though, polls have been furiously unreliable when it comes to black candidates. In 1996, when voters in the southern state of Virginia chose Douglas Wilder, a graduate of Harvard, as the first elected black governor in U.S. history, he won by a third of a percentage point. And yet the exit polls on election day had suggested he was headed for a comfortable victory of some 10 full points—or 30 times what he actually needed to win. When asked what he was told to vote for the black guy, a lot of white voters simply had upon leaving the voting booths. "When you ask people if they would be willing to vote for a minority candidate, 85 per cent say, 'Yes, I'm not a racist,'" says Richard D'Alonzo, a political scientist at the University of South Carolina who specializes in voter attitudes. "If you ask the question whether they think either votee would, or whether the country is ready, it goes closer to 60 per cent who say yes. The truth is somewhere in between."

But here is where Obama can take some comfort. In last November's mid-term elections, 36-year-old black Democrat Harold Ford Jr., formerly lost a tight Senate race in Tennessee to his white Republican opponent. The contest received national attention because Ford had been in a slight lead until the other side began running campaign materials in which a tiny white woman informed a husband, to tell him, "This ads were recently attacked as racist." But when race is relevant in the fact of who Ford's wife, the polls predicted the election results quite accurately. And that development was so fitting to the problem of who had a word of a black candidate's readiness to be overrepresented in the polls. "I don't know if we're getting better as politicians, or if people have come used to black candidates and that they can give an honest opinion without being seen as racist," says Oldrick.

There wasn't the only bit of good news for Obama in the 2006 elections. Gubernatorial races are perhaps more indicative than legislative contests about voter attitudes toward the



OBAMA IS ANTI-WAR, BUT HASN'T RULED OUT A MILITARY ATTACK ON IRAN



office of commander-in-chief. A governor's mansion often serves as a stepping stone to the White House, where people elect their governor, they are looking for an individual to govern them, not just a senator or congressman who will vote their way on the issues. And so it makes well that, in November, David Patrick, the former governor of Massachusetts, the nation's second-oldest black governor after Walter F. Reuther, became Patrick and Obama share a background that makes them far different from earlier black candidates like Jackson and Sharpton. "I think America would elect a black president," says Ronald Wright, a political scientist at the University of Maryland and a former deputy campaign manager for Jackson. "The question has always been, what kind of black president. I concluded when Jesse Jackson ran that he would never be president. Like they would Al Sharpton, nor would anyone have a history coming out of the civil rights movement and still carrying those issues. America is uncomfortable with those."

By contrast, another Patrick met Obama have emerged from the street protests of the civil rights movement, rather, both came through Harvard Law School. Patrick became Bill Clinton's assistant attorney general for civil rights, and held senior jobs at Seneca and Coca Cola. Obama was president of the Harvard Law Review and went on to teach constitutional law at the University of Chicago and serve in the same senate. "It was done a lot of work in grassroots change among African-American political leaders, and Barack Obama fit very well with the pattern," Patrick says. David Boies, a senior researcher at the Brookings Institute for Policy and Economic Studies, also points Washington group that studied black issues. "The old generation of African-American political leaders were to historically black colleges, many were owned in the black church, they were part of the civil rights movement, they had an agenda that was very much black-oriented, although some went beyond it. Many of those who follow Martin Luther King Jr. became involved in terms of fighting for peasants, the poor and minorities are not a good base."

Patrick and Obama are different. "The new generation," Boies says, "have reached black education and they are ambitious. If you

HE'S SPEECH at the 2004 Democratic leadership convention (left) turned Obama into a household name. Oprah's support should help with the coveted vice-presidential vote

goal is to be a black politician whose constituency is black, the highest you can aim for is the House of Representatives, and maybe you can rise high enough to become a committed Democrat. But if you want to be governor, senator or president, you have to appeal to whites." While Jackson's presidential platform talked about repression of the black slaves, ushering the war as a drag, a nation fractious and corrupt, defunct spending, Patrick focused on health care, education and the environment. In the Senate, Obama's main accomplishments have been on education bills and stopping "incendiaries" including nuclear weapons. "To the extent that Obama drew voters in to the war, social justice, health, the economy, we move toward the center, that's what makes him a different candidate from Jesse Jackson," says Oldrick.

While Obama is anti-war and generally considered left of center in his party, he has also made some major conservative points. In his bestselling book, *The Audacity of Hope*, he scolded Democrats for focusing their energies poll attention on pulling out of Iraq and working with America's allies. "The objectives favored by liberals have meant that they hardly constitute a coherent national security policy," he wrote.

OBAMA'S MIDDLE-CLASS POLITICS WILL have to make the various ideological lines torn of a Democratic primary. Obama himself acknowledges that "I serve as a black screen on which people of very different political stripes project their own views. As such, I am bound to disappoint some. First, of those." So far, though, aggressive critics are helping him transcend that race issue.

During the recent mid-term elections, Obama was in high demand to speak at rallies all over the country—but he was told, in addition, often, to turn out the black vote. He does have crowd-pleasing like New Hampshire, a swing state where there are few black voters. In fact, a curious aspect of Obama's success is that it is primarily a white pitch. Obama's not just because he has a white wife, Michelle Obama, from, says that white factor. Obama became he doesn't appear to be asking them to make up for historical wrongs. "The reputation, poor and ugly and poor most people," Oldrick says. "He is not that much in his book, but that's what white voters are here. It goes down a level of comfort. He offers what voters a kind of simplicity on the race issue." As Obama hits



POLLS INDICATE THAT OBAMA HAS PLENTY OF ROOM TO GROW (OR DISAPPOINT)



DURING HIS Harvard Law Review class days, planting an olive tree in Harvard Yard. Obama is the father of two daughters and two sons.

sell his narrative in his book, "I have understood a profound truth in my life: it is not in my life. I have felt it is surely in me both the change in the corporation." Yet he also notes, "But it's not good enough."

For some, Obama's racial complexity and ethnic upbringing creates an untapped variable. He spent his early years living in Indonesia with his mother and stepfather, whom he attended both Christian and Muslim schools. His campaign has already had to deny accusations that he studied at one of the extremist Islamic schools called madrasas. Throughout his political career, Obama has been criticized as not sharing the black experience because he is not a descendant of slave and grew up in a middle-class suburban family. Critics are already using derogatory labels like "Hillbilly." To some black conservatives he looks like a "traitor" or even a white politician like John Edwards, who unthinkingly sought black support when he announced his candidacy in New Orleans's Magnolia Woods Ward.

Still, Whitey says Obama should be able to attract the black vote as well. "There is quite a bit of discussion about whether blacks would vote for him, purely because that's where in the race who also attracted African-American support before—John Edwards and of course the Clintons," he notes. "I think that if Obama does not forward an agenda that is attractive to the black community, then he will attract the both ends of the vote."

And any political campaign, money talks, and Obama may get lucky in that regard. In what is expected to be the first billion-dollar presidential campaign, each serious candidate is going to have to raise \$100 million (all figures in US\$) by the end of the year to make a serious run (George W. Bush and John Kerry each spent well over \$100 million on their race in 2004). Clinton has \$14 million left over from her governor's Senate race. Obama raised more than \$10 million for his 2006 Senate race and has \$100,000 left over. But he is already disengaging himself from such as billions of francs in philanthropic George Soros, who dropped \$2 million on one Bush primary in the 2004 presidential election. Hollywood heavyweight Steven Spielberg donated \$5 million to Obama's campaign.

As well, Obama has Oprah, the southern woman-of-coloration, who has given away \$218 million of her \$1.6 billion fortune to worthy causes, and used to back Hillary Rodham Clinton. The platform she offers could be immense: her show is viewed by 47 million Americans weekly, and most of them are the golden-age-african-american demographic. If Obama secures a way to send direct city into Clinton's base, and appeal to swing voters and Republicans, this is it. "Oprah is an enormously popular woman who is the most powerful African-American woman and white woman alive," says Democratic strategist Steven Babione. "Who is the Oprah public and who are a potential swing public that could help deliver the presidential election?"

Her first big show on Obama on Oct. 28 landed him back to the top of best-seller lists. When Oprah decided to build a school for girls in South Africa, it came complete with a beauty salon and yoga studio—who knew when she could do with a presidential campaign. Some of her fans here would like to run for president, she has told them; she does their websites and supports Obama instead. In any case,

With Obama, she gushed, "I don't care how much I have to work. I want to help people get elected." In solemn interview politeness, she when I decided to talk with you, people around me were like, 'What's happened to you?' I said, 'I think this is a good and above politics.' It feels like something else."

While individual political assistance has long been part of U.S. election law, there are no limitations on Obama taking or endorsing campaign rallies or handling fund-raising. Apart from the risk of alienating some of his audience, Oprah also has free rein to promote Obama in her show without having to give equal time to other candidates, under an exception that the Federal Election Commission makes for media outlets, says Craig Holman, a specialist in campaign finance law with the government watchdog group Public Citizen. She could also follow the norms model and pay for advocacy by independent groups, which would allow her to reach millions of viewers more directly than through the TV news network.

The support of Oprah for Obama is as long as she does not contradict her explicit alliance with the Obama campaign or the Democratic party," says Holman.

ATTYS CORI, THE QUEST FOR THE PRESIDENCY is as much about process as personality. For any Democratic contender it boils down to two things: is the nomination campaign, the

**IF HE LOSES,
HE WILL
HAVE MORE TO
BLAME
THAN HIS
RACE**



early primary states that usually swing over-
cast well ahead of the convention, and then,
in the actual presidential race, the classic
swing states such as Ohio and Florida—where
the Republicans held the White House by a
thin margin in the last election.

First, the journalists: Iowa and New Hampshire are both largely white states, but already Obama is polling well there (though such early soundings need to be taken with a very large grain of salt). Polls of Iowa Democrats have placed him either tied with Edwards for the lead, or in second place. He has been neck and neck with Clinton or leading in New Hampshire, and is in second place behind her in Nevada, which has been added as an early state this year.

The first state to weigh in on the Democratic nomination, Iowa, does not hold an ordinary primary election. Instead, the Iowans attend so-called "caucuses," where they gather in a room, usually a community centre, school or a firehouse, and literally stand up for their candidates in public. The supporters of the most popular candidates in a caucus are then given the chance to elect delegates to vote

roughly half of the primary voters in black, white counties and the local ruling of a white Republican dominated state will not win Democrats who are desperate to reinvent the White House think twice about Obama.

"There are going to be some black voters in South Carolina who think a black person getting elected president isn't going to help him, and they're going to look for someone who will get elected," says Smith. Indeed, in a survey by the *Los Angeles Times*, several black leaders expressed that sentiment.

"In the South don't believe Anwar is ready to elect a black president," Robert Ford, a black state senator from South Carolina who supports John Edwards, told the paper. On the other hand, the state threw its delegates behind much less than Jesse Jackson in past years, and Jackson is hardly Obama.

10/8/08) survives the premises of the article: the Democratic nomination, what about those swing states? Luckily for Obama, the people most likely to have a problem with his skin colour don't tend to live there. There is a far more no-believe me would be a limiting factor in places like Ohio or Colorado, where Obama was a big draw when he campaigned for candidates in 2006. (See below.)

"The place in the country where there is the most doubt about whether they would support an African American is doubtful that Democrats are even going to compete in these places—mainly in the South." That's surprising, since exceptions like "republican-leaning whites" of Louisiana have been lost given the large Obama community there and to the middle class and Republican-leaning whites, Wright Ainsie, a political scientist at the University of Portland Gainesville. "The race question could be her life."

Ultimately, if the United States is indeed ready to elect a black president, it may be because both the voters and the candidates have changed. "I use the term co-evolution—an ecosystem of two species evolving at the same time in ways that bring them together," says Koppin. "I think white voters are more inclined to vote for a black candidate than they have in the past, and the black candidates who they potentially might be offered as a choice to vote for are more to their liking than in the past."

But what about that meagre record of electing blacks to the Senate? It may not be indicative of much. For one thing, only about half of the states in the union have large enough numbers of blacks to potentially influence voting outcomes (in total, African Americans make up only 15 per cent of the American population). There's also the fact that only one-third of the Senate comes up for re-election in a given election year, which leaves very few seats up for grabs. Add to that the



These data are consistent with an additive model.

propensity of incumbents to hold their seats not just for years, but decades, and the chance of anyone, let alone a black American, to be elected to the Senate are very low.

In the end, Obama's biggest obstacle will likely be his lack of experience. Only in a third year in the Senate, and with no executive experience, he will have to prove that he has the ability to lead a nation currently embroiled in two wars. Some skeptics suggest that race may make that job harder.

"Barack Obama doesn't have an established track record. That's not uncommon for candidates, but for a black candidate that's something people are going to focus on," says Avelin. "People are going to use it as a crutch because they don't want to vote for a black person." Nonetheless, Obama has shown he can win big. He took his Senate seat with 70 per cent of the vote—about 10 points largely to the fact that his opponent filed the race as a scandal, and his own campaign was purchased in front of a million. Many interactive may be his performance in the Senate Democratic primary, where he faced multiple candidates and won a way with a majority of the vote. "Usually, if someone has five opponents, they are happy if they get 30 per cent of the vote," says Rosen. "So that certainly is a sign that he has something going for him."

No doubt Shirley Chisholm, who died in 2005, would be pleased to see her party becoming a woman and a black man. Of her symbolic 1972 candidacy, she said, "What I hope occurs is that now there will be others who will feel themselves as capable of running for high political office as are wealthy, good-looking white male." ■



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ranis. The process is more convincing and financially some 20 percent of the party faithful attend, but they can seal a candidate's fate. Because of its influential spot on the primary calendar, this small rural state is often run by political activists and media as one can mine, and is accustomed to lavish court- ing by the candidates even in off years.

Iowa's value is not being met just in personal factors with candidates, often in their own living rooms. A television and speech campaign doesn't work in a manner how ideology or special candidates. "The bottom line is far less is not the most or the second the candidates, but who builds the organization on the ground using local leaders," says David Keel Lewis, a political scientist at the University of Iowa who specializes in water behavior. Howard Deane was considered the runaway front-runner heading into the 2004 race, but his strategy of bringing thousands of out-of-state volunteers to knock on doors didn't go over well. At the moment, only Edwards, an Iowa darling, has a ground organization in the state.

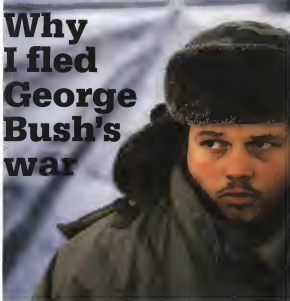
The early primary in South Carolina may present another hurdle for Obama.

CINCINNATI (UPI) — Jim Jackson ran a largely symbolic campaign in 1972. Jackson finished second in the '88 leadership race. Ford, Jr. (bottom) was narrowly defeated in his Senate run last fall.

WE CAN GET A WHOLE LOT OF INFORMATION FROM THESE PEOPLE.

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Why I fled George Bush's war



What happened to make a patriotic, gung-ho soldier desert the U.S. army, and turn against the war in Iraq. EXCLUSIVE EXCERPT

Joshua Key, 28, was a poor, uneducated Oklahoma country boy who saw the U.S. army and its promised benefits—from free health care to cancer treatment—as the ticket to a better life. In 2002, just 24, but already married and the father of two, Key enlisted. He says his recruiting officer promised he'd never be deployed abroad, but a year later he was in Iraq. Only

24 hours after arriving, an Iraqi missile in The Deserters' Tale (Amazon) he experienced his first doubts about what he and his fellow soldiers were doing there.

I WAS SCARED out of my wits that first day on Al Ramadi. Our own air force had just finished bombing these people, but we got on to our vehicles we began patrolling their streets, on foot. With nearly 100

lb. of weaponry, equipment and clothing on my back, I was about as mobile as a cow. It was just my platoon, 20 guys, walking single file through streets full of Iraqi. I could not stop thinking that anywhere, at any time, some hell started sniper on a roof could have taken me out in no time flat. Iraqi kids surrounded me in swarms, hands out, asking for water and food. I kept hearing the last words [my wife] Brenda said to me before I flew out: "Don't you let those terrorists scare you, Josh. Even if they are kids. Get the hell in before they get you."

I was awestruck at how that last night and told to get my ass up quickly because in

one hour we were going to take a house full of terrorists. Cops. Cops and some sergeants showed me and my squad mates a small photo of a house and a drawing of the layout of the inside. Our assignment was to blow off the door, burn into the house, read it fast and read it good—looking for intel, intel, intel, each of us got signs of terrorist or terrorist activity, then reading up the men and getting out during fast. The longer we stayed in any one location, the longer someone would have to get us in the sights of a rocket-propelled grenade or a heavy mortar.

I had no idea what to expect. Would I charge through the door, only to be blown to bits by a grenade? Would I be ambushed by an AK-47? Would my Oklahoma ass right back get that door? Would some 16-year-old terrorist with two days of gun training be waiting to put me in his crosshairs? The recruits asked on, and I would the hour to speed forward so we could get on with it. One sergeant said push your pump them up. I borrowed Michael's portable CD player and bombed out my comrades to the beat of Ozzy Osbourne. It got me going, high and ready for action. I checked my watch and it would be 10:00, and made some clips—Cops, huggers, but on five—behind my lip. You can't imagine a guy sitting when you're in an M-16 in a hot zone weapon on your arm. So I put my butt. Makes your watch black as ink, and you're the only right out of your gear, but I put my machine like of choice going into that raid.

I remembered our instructions to memory. I knew the angles of the house, what floor I would help blow down, how many floors were in the house, and what would do what when we burst inside. I would be third in the door, which meant I was the second most likely to get shot if anybody had a mind to take it down, and I'd head to the left. Always, for every raid, I would be third in, heading left. I gripped my belt bag. No, it would be 10,000 rounds a minute but only in the air. You couldn't really hold your finger down that long. When you were blowing away like that, the bullets rained the hardest at that as Hades. And if you held your finger down too long it would warp the barrel.

I took three seconds for intel and me to get the charge of C-4 placed explosive on the door. Then we dashed around to the side of the house so we wouldn't be shot at once up. You'd be thinking if you were anywhere near the explosion. I set off the blast, and

JOSHUA KEY (left) has joined refugee status in Canada. With an Iraqi prisoner (right).

then the set of us charged in. Jones went first—that damn, bald-headed Iraqi boy was always hot to trot. With Jones leading the way we burst into the house, armed to the hilt. Kevlar helmets, flak jackets, machine guns, combat boots, the whole nine yards.

I'd never been inside an Iraqi house before. We charged through the kitchen. I had been told by squad leader Padda to check everything, so I went over the fridge. Perhaps, I thought, I would find guns or grenades hidden inside. No such luck. In the fridge, all I saw was a bit of food. In the freezer I found big signs of meat, uncovered. No stepping. No place. Frozen, just like that. We ran into a living room with long couches, one along each wall. In the northwest the couch was toward the children, a teenager, and a woman. We also found two young men in the house. One looked like a teenager and the other was perhaps in his early 20s—brother.

We holed up and crouched. I kept dip on the door and scanned along with the other soldiers at the top of my lungs. I knew they didn't understand, but I holed up anyway. "Get down," I shouted. "Get the f--- down. Shut the f--- up."



"Don't let the terrorists near you. Even if they are kids. Get them before they get you."

They didn't know what "get down" meant, so we knuckled the two brothers to the floor, face down. We put our knees on their backs, pulled their hands behind their heads, and faster than you can see on eye we searched them. Ziplocs and plastic bags full of that look on their faces. They must have been something there. But these young men's skin. There was no lie, nothing—the only way to get them off was to shoot them with a rifle.

We pushed the brothers outside, where 12 other soldiers from our platoon were waiting. The Iraqi brothers were taken away to an American detention facility for more questions. I don't know what it was called, and I don't know where it was. All I know is that we sent every man—pretty well every male over five feet tall—that we found in our house into it, and I never saw one of them return to the neighborhoods we patrolled regularly.

Intel, we kept on ransacking the house. The more obvious it became that we would find no weapons or contraband, the more we looked the stuff out of the house. We looked over the doors, found our mattresses with knives, found our way through doors, making the three bedrooms on the second floor, and ran up to the third floor. We turned over everything we could and broke furniture at random, searching for contraband, weapons, proof of terrorist activity, or signs of weapons or misdeeds. We found nothing but a CD. Soldiers usually said it showed proof of terrorist activity, but it turned out to have nothing on it but a bunch of speeches by Saddam Hussein.

Once we had everything outside the house and had done our intel job of ransacking, another squad took over inside. They kept ransacking hell in there, breaking and turning over more furniture, looking for weapons that we might have missed. Outside, under a carpet, I was assigned to watch the women and children. We weren't searching them, but we weren't allowing them to go anywhere either. The family members couldn't go back inside, and they couldn't wander off into the neighborhood. They had to stay right there while we tore the hell out of their house.

After the family—sister—started staying at me.

I tried to ignore her. Then she began speaking to me. Inside, when we had been searching my ass and the others, I'd assumed that nobody understood a word of English. But that young girl spoke to me in English, and her eyes bored holes right through me. She was slim and handsome, not even too fat, but yet a full grown woman, but something about her seemed powerful and disturbing. I loved that girl, and I wanted to get away from her

as far as I could, but it was my job to stay right there and make sure she didn't go. I had my weapons ready. She was wearing a blue nightgown and had a white towel over her hair. She had no veil, but could see her face perfectly. Her eyes were coal black and full of hatred.

In English, she asked me, "Where are you taking my brothers?"

"I don't know, Miss," I said.
 "Why are you taking them away?"
 "I'm afraid I can't say."
 "When are you bringing them back?"
 "Could tell you that, a father?"
 "Why are you doing this to us?"
 "I don't know that."

I hoped she would not raise a fuss. I didn't want her to start screaming,

my squad couldn't find a thing, not even any guns—and I sensed that the men around they were of looking contemptuous, the more desecration they became. They pushed dresses, ripped miniskirts, broke objects, and threw them to the floor.

Outside I found Pvt. 1st Class Hayes with a woman under an empty capy. He pinned his M-16 at her head but she would not stop screaming.

"What are you doing this for?" she said. Hayes told her to shut up.
 "Where does nothing to you?" she asked.
 Hayes was staring to lose it. I told her that we were there on orders and that we didn't speak to her, but she came on and on and on and on at Hayes and me.

my dream to this day. All the women were led back inside the house and our entire platoon was ordered to stand guard outside in four U.S. military men entered the house with the women. They closed the doors. We couldn't see anything through the windows. I don't know who the military men were, or what unit they were from, but I can only conclude that they overruled us and were at least at the level of first lieutenant or above. That's because our own second lieutenant Joyce was there, and his presence did not deter them.

Naturally, when we contacted a raid, we were in and out in 30 minutes or less. This never wanted to stay in one place for too long for fear of exposing yourself to mortar

He slammed her in the face with the stock of his M-16. She fell, bleeding and silent.



"I WAS VULNERABLE and I didn't like it," writes Kay.

"You Americans are disgusting! Who do you think you are, to do this to us?"
 Hayes slammed her in the face with the stock of his M-16. She fell face down onto the dirt, bleeding and silent. The woman lay on the ground. I pushed Hayes away.
 "What are you doing, man? I need to hear you have a wife and two kids! Don't be hurting her like that!"

He looked at us with eyes full of hatred, as if we were ready to kill us as well as those women, but he did not touch the women again. I found this incident with Hayes particularly disturbing because during other times I had seen him in action in Iraq, he had showed himself to be one of the most level-headed and calm soldiers in my company. I had the sense that he could have been a great man if he had, but he was not. I was not sure if he was a man or a monster.

That something happened that haunts

me today. The only person who was made to stand guard outside that house for about an hour. The women started shouting and screaming. The men stayed in there with them, behind closed doors. It went on and on and on.

Finally, the men came out and told us to get the hell out of there.

In Iraq, not more than three, the American soldiers, were

the terrorists. We were terrorizing Iraqis. Justifying them. Destroying their homes. Probably raping them. The only we didn't kill had all the reasons in the world to become terrorists themselves. Given what we were doing to them, they could have been the winners. What do you think, all Americans? A nice retribution lodged like a cancer in my gut. It grew and festered, and made me more with every passing day. We, the Americans, had become the terrorists in Iraq.

In December 2005, my first home in a two-week leave. He never returned to Iraq. Instead, Kay went to visit Theodoros Morik, he and his family moved to the Canadian border at Niagara Falls. ■

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RENTING INTO and managing business continued one of my most common duties in Iraq. Before my first year, I took part in about 200 raids. My never-failing weapons or collection of weapons. I never found a thing that seemed to justify the terror we inflicted every time we blazed through the door of a civilian house, broke everything in sight, punched and raped the men, and sent them away. One raid was the worst.

It was a horrendous two-story house and quite isolated. As usual, I put the charge of C-explosives on the door and we blew it. As we rushed into the house, women were screaming at us from their rooms. Three teenage girls screamed when they saw us. Some of my squad mates grabbed them and held them at gunpoint, and the rest of us ran through the house. We found no men at all, just two more women in their beds and in the



THE CZECH REPUBLIC CHEATING POLITICIANS
 Some commentators compare his philanthropy to Bill Gates, but others say they aren't concerned about their future. Philip Morris, Topol's link and his well-publicized affair with his Civil Democratic Party deputy leader, has infuriated—even though the only he having his baby. In spite of barriers from Topol's wife in the media, most people questioned by *The Prague Post* say that Topol is only human, not really about it lives up his lives.

RETIREMENT SPECIAL

LITTLE CASH, BUT NO WORRIES

The boomers are so late saving for retirement that many of their kids are beginning to save at the same time. But do they expect to be a burden to their children? Of course they don't. BY CATHY GULLI

When it comes to retirement, baby boomers have a long way to go to catch up to their children. Those "kids" were not all as late as they may seem. Many of them are now in their 40s and 50s, and they are beginning to save for retirement. They are not all as late as they may seem. Many of them are now in their 40s and 50s, and they are beginning to save for retirement. They are not all as late as they may seem. Many of them are now in their 40s and 50s, and they are beginning to save for retirement.

want to retire by 65, but don't expect to need 66—and McCurdy says, "Some of them are going to work longer."

Just how long depends on their expectations for retirement. One-third of 55- to 64-year-olds anticipate their standard of living to be better as retirees than it is now. By comparison, only 10 percent of boomers say



Government pension plans will probably go broke before I retire...

When I retire I will be living in...

The house I lived in before retirement



I don't know



96%

When I retire, I am myself living in...

The area of Canada where I now reside



79%

Do I believe I will be more or less comfortable in retirement than my parents were?



36%

36%

Legend: 18- to 34-year-olds, 45- to 64-year-olds

beginning at the same time as their parents," says Diane McCurdy, a Vancouver financial planner and author of *How Much Is Enough?*

That baby boomers really didn't expect to retire as late as they are now, she adds. "The boomers think they're forever young, but the 50-year-olds think they're a little older than they are."

That's because boomers and their children, who make up Generation Y and the rest of X, have changing work ethics and personal priorities. The 45- to 64-year-olds are highly competitive, driven by money, status and immediate gratification, says Stanley Korman, an Ottawa bankruptcy lawyer and author of *Put Your Bank on a Diet*. They work hard and long hours, and have redefined themselves and their families with boomers along the way, he adds.

Meanwhile, baby boomers who grew up with both parents always at the office and during retirement—now scrambling for retirement savings—they won't do the same. "Money isn't their main focus. They want to be

happy in their jobs, they want good pay, and they want to know how much money [that] they get," says McCurdy.

They also want to retire younger than their parents, she says. McCurdy's survey of 1,463 Canadians says boomers want to retire by 65, but don't expect to need 66—and McCurdy says, "Some of them are going to work longer."

That's the 18- to 34-year-olds, though, not the 45- to 64-year-olds. They would like to retire at 65, but don't expect to need 66—and McCurdy says, "Some of them are going to work longer."

Average savings per year for retirement



Most annual retirement savings



\$2,963.17

\$7,696.49

they expect a steady stream of income. McCurdy suspects that these boomers anticipate less money in retirement are probably feeling as if they're running out of time to save. "They haven't reached the numbers so they're in panic mode."

Doing the math, however, will probably confirm their worries, warns Richman, because boomers want to travel and enjoy "the good life" over their money. And they can't find themselves as a whole if they don't "stretch it," he says. Boomers, perhaps realizing this, expect to be less comfortable than their own parents in retirement, with 45 percent saying so, compared to 26 percent of the younger group. (The average for 18- to 34-year-olds is 26 percent, 39 percent for 45- to 64-year-olds.) Boomers



FLY FAST 65: Air Canada pilot Raymond Hall is a group fighting the airline's policy

aviation professions have been at the forefront of the fight against mandatory retirement. The idea of working at 60 or 65 is under attack everywhere by the same government—the baby boomers whose birth between 1946 and 1964—that drove so much social change in its younger days. As the very industrial group near retirement (the oldest boomers will begin turning 65 in 2011), it's changing perceptions about aging, and raising questions about what is a realistic age to retire at this time of rising life expectancy. People are living longer and healthier and so want to work longer, too.

That push is beginning to be recognized by governments around the world, with the number of people over the age of 65 expected to double over the next 10 years or so. In Canada it will jump from four and a half to 10 million by 2030. Many Canadian provinces have already banned mandatory retirement, including Manitoba, Alberta, Quebec and, just last December, Ontario. Similar legislation is expected in British Columbia this spring. Canada's Association for the Fifty Plus (formerly the Canadian Association of Retired Persons) is now planning a court challenge against mandatory retirement in federally regulated industries like health care, British is scheduled to plan last spring to gradually raise the retirement age to 66. The United States is pushing the age at which people can receive full social security pension benefits toward 67 to handle the mass of soon-to-be pension sucking boomers.

So why 65 as the first place? The reason of retiring at 65 is a relatively modern custom, often credited to Germany's long-serving chancellier Otto von Bismarck in the late 19th century. Facing pressure from the left for social change, Bismarck needed a quick and popular campaign promise. Since 1889, he introduced an old-age social insurance program (originally for those 70 and over but later lowered to 65). It was a disappointment—very few in that day and age lived to see 65, let alone 70. The idea spread to other countries nonetheless, and governments and academics across the Western world evaluating pension plans settled on 65 as the ideal age for retirement. "It's a number workers found attractive, and the financing of the system, when we didn't have the life expectancy we do today, was quite affordable," says Robert Brown, a professor of actuarial science at the University of Waterloo.

Life expectancies have changed dramatically over the past half-century. In 1961, the figure was 67 for Canadian men and 72 for women, leaving reasons previous life expectancy

to let the beaches of Florida (and to drive persons) before the gun proper came knocking. Today, life expectancies in Canada are 79 for men and 81 for women. Even if people aren't working beyond 65, they're more capable than ever of doing it. "We're living longer and generally living longer lives of disability," says Andrew Winter, a professor of gerontology at Simon Fraser University. "There's no reason why we can't have mandatory retirement to 67 or 68—no reason at all." In fact, numerous studies suggest that those who do work longer are healthier than people who retire early. Many people also need to work longer for financial reasons as life expectancy grows, says Judy Geller, a director with Canada's Association for the Fifty-Plus. Winter actually says mandatory retirement should be done away with altogether, so long as people still have the option of retiring without receiving benefits at 65. That option doesn't appear to be in any danger of disappearing. Activists say Canada's pension plan is adequately prepared for the influx of baby-boomer boomers thanks to an overhaul in the 1990s.

Curiously, despite the push to rethink 65, few even work to that age. In fact, over the past few decades, people have been retiring

earlier than ever (although that trend began reversing in the past few years). That reality has also inspired public policy steps

aimed at any immediate need to push the retirement age past 65. "We've got a lot of men to delay retirement without having to push the age 65 button," says Brown. "Delayed retirement is probably good public policy, but I don't think we have to talk to any body about working to age 70."

In Winter's case, he continued to fly after his retirement, for a smaller private airline (there's no age restriction on pilot's license). He only stopped flying recently to focus full time on his human rights challenge. And there's reason to believe he'll be successful when the decision comes out this summer. The push to change Air Canada's policy is in line with trends in the retirement and pension community to minimize retirement age. In the short term, this might not bode well for younger Air Canada pilots anxious to fly jobs that only become available when older workers retire. On the other hand, if the kinds of worker shortages anticipated by changing demographics emerge in the next two decades, companies may soon be begging employees like Winter to work to 65 and well beyond. ■



OTTO VON BISMARCK was seen as progressive at the time, few lived to 65 or 70

RETIREMENT SPECIAL

WHAT'S THE MAGIC IN 65?

We live longer, and stay healthier longer. Shouldn't we now work longer, too?

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • It's been 75 years since George Vélus lost his job as an Air Canada pilot. He wasn't fired outright, but perhaps even more grievously, he was forced into retirement at the not-so-ripe age of 60. Since then, Vélus, who used to fly Air bus 340s to cities like Hong Kong and Sydney, Australia, has been fighting his former employer, arguing that the company's mandatory retirement policy amounts to age discrimination. Vélus's case, along with that of another Air Canada pilot, Neil Kelly, is being heard this week by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The two men have this up to date: 70 other Air Canada pilots who've formed a group, led by 57-year-old captain Raymond Hall, called Fly Past 65. Hall plans to retire at 60, as a good many Canadians do, but decided to back Vélus

against his employer and his own union on principle. "It's just not right," he says.

The prospect of an elderly pilot with cancer and shaky hands in the cockpit of a four-engine, 300-passenger commercial jet is a bit unsettling, and the Air Canada Pilots Association argues that retirement at 60 is "necessary on both safety and operational grounds." But the pilots say an age cap isn't needed, given the proficiency requirements and routine assessments of them every six months. "I can say unequivocally that I was a much, much better pilot when I left than when I retired," says Vélus. From his home in Andrus, Alta. "These young guys may have better hands and feet, but the bigger part of the equation is experience." And yet it's not the most critical, best qualified workers will be forced from the cockpit at the height of their careers, says Hall. "It's a tremendous loss of human capital."

Airline pilots are by no means alone in their fight against mandatory retirement. Similar battles have been waged in other professions, most notably in academia, where

many older professors are being forced to retire at 65. In a relatively modern custom, often credited to Germany's long-serving chancellier Otto von Bismarck in the late 19th century. Facing pressure from the left for social change, Bismarck needed a quick and popular campaign promise. Since 1889, he introduced an old-age social insurance program (originally for those 70 and over but later lowered to 65). It was a disappointment—very few in that day and age lived to see 65, let alone 70. The idea spread to other countries nonetheless, and governments and academics across the Western world evaluating pension plans settled on 65 as the ideal age for retirement. "It's a number workers found attractive, and the financing of the system, when we didn't have the life expectancy we do today, was quite affordable," says Robert Brown, a professor of actuarial science at the University of Waterloo.

Life expectancies have changed dramatically over the past half-century. In 1961, the figure was 67 for Canadian men and 72 for women, leaving reasons previous life expectancy



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'IT'S SO EXCITING. IT SHOWS THAT CANADA'S MULTICULTURAL AND MULTILINGUAL'—'WATER' DIRECTOR DEEPA MEHTA ON LEARNING HER HINDI-LANGUAGE DRAMA IS NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR

DEEPA MEHTA OSCAR NOMINEE AND PECKED-UP SETTER

As the Oscar nominees were read in alphabetical order early Tuesday morning, Water director Deepa Mehta was watching an TV in Toronto, living it up. After four of her movies for four foreign-language films were named, Mehta was not among them. "I thought it was weird," says Mehta, who inspired Pedro Almodóvar's (near) Silver Screen last year. But (and to Greenpeace) being denied a Best Picture nod. Water's nomination sends a historic precedent in Canada's first foreign language Oscar nod. "It's so exciting," says Mehta. "It does show that Canada is multicultural and multilingual." So what will the vote be in the awards? "A lot, of course."



RUTH TURNER LABOUR'S 'GATEKEEPER' GETS BUSTED

Although she has yet to be charged, police hanging in Ruth Turner's front door last week of her best friend news for her best friend, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Turner, 56, a Labour "gatekeeper," the director of government communications. She was arrested for allegedly trying to bribe Scotland Yard's investigation of a "cash-for-burns" political scandal. Wealthy Labour supporters, the suspect says, were rewarded for patronage after losing millions to the party. Inexplicably, Turner, who has a reputation as a formidable fundraiser, failed between No. 10 and the ruling Labour party. While she said the "absolutely refuses any allegations of wrongdoing," her name came after she reportedly backed into Downing Street conspirators to confirm that information was being withheld. In light of the potential fall-out—political analysts say that if champagne Blair's Downing Street office, he'll have to resign—an old Labour government took on a prophetic air. "It's really very serious of joining the Labour party," the text said. "I just fell in with the wrong crowd."



DAN HALUTZ ISRAEL'S MILITARY CHIEF FALLS ON HIS SWORD

After facing harsh criticism at home for his role in last summer's bloody war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, Israel's military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, has resigned. The move comes after government investigations accused him of mishandling troop preparation for the 34-day war, which began last July 11. "With the phases of battle having faded, I have decided to set on my responsibility," the 56-year-old general wrote in his resignation letter. "For me, the concept of responsibility is everything." Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has also come under scrutiny. Hours before Halutz's announcement, Israel's state prosecutor announced Olmert was under criminal investigation for his role in the 2001 privatization of one of Israel's largest banks. Many Israelis are calling for his resignation as well.



FOXY BROWN EARNING AN 'A' IN ASHER MANAGEMENT

Rapper Foxy Brown was still on tour during a Manhattan courthouse last week after receiving an "A" in anger management from Judge Melissa Berman. Brown, 34, was charged in 2004 with misdemeanor assault after a dispute with a Chicago area mall when she pleaded guilty to last August, and was sentenced to three years of probation and anger management counseling. In December, she struck her target shot at Jackson in court. But now she's happy all around. "I have matured a lot since I started anger management," Brown said. And, "This is only the first time in two years that I'm pleased with Judge Jackson." Brown's anger management was supervised by Nanci Campbell, 36, who was sentenced to anger-management counseling (and freedom of community service) in New York last week.



LEFT: ACTIVIST WITH UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY; RIGHT: SHAWAN BOY WITH DAVID UNIVERSITY, PETER HARRINGTON

RALPH KLEIN NO GOLF, TOO BUSY ADVISING LEGAL EAGLES

So much for retirement—hardly three business days after Ralph Klein resigned his seat on Jan. 25, the law firm Borden Ladner Gervais LLP announced that the Alberta premier was joining as a senior business adviser. Klein said he'd take a three-month leave, but now he'll devote two-thirds of his time to talking to BLD's clients, eager to involve in Alberta and its energy sector. Though not a lawyer, he formerly never failed his school—Klein picked BLD because they "don't talk like lawyers. In other words, you can understand just about everything they say." Klein's retirement calendar was already packed with commitments at various universities, as well as Washington's Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He is also planning to work with former Newfoundland premier Brian Tobin to develop an energy policy for the Province of Ontario.



DEKE GREFFEN CAPTURING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Most days, two or three celestial satellites cascade across northern Canada. The aurora borealis, a form of northern lights, bursts into vibrant colors and patterns. Linked to the interplay of solar winds and the earth's magnetic field, the phenomenon still puzzles scientists. Next month, NASA will launch the smallest satellite to investigate them. Meanwhile, University of Calgary research assistant Mike Greffen, who is working with NASA, has installed a bank of cameras across northern Canada to capture the light-brewing phenomenon, and once while mounting a beeper's hat, a series of bees. "When most of us picture NASA, we picture clean rooms and white suits," says Greffen. "And here I am with cameras and snowmobiles."



SALVATORE MANCUSO A DEATH-SQUAD LEADER SPILLS THE BEANS

The premier's recent visit to the province of Colombia's Salvatore Mancuso, a leader of the paramilitary group Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC), continued last week in the southern city of Medellín as he read one from his laptop, the details of 70 kidnappings, murders and massacres he committed and a list of his victims. Mancuso is the first of the so-called disfigured men of the late 1990s to confess. Still, his deal with the government will protect him from extradition to the U.S. on drug charges, and limit his jail sentence to eight years. In return, Mancuso has promised to sue government officials who supported the paramilitary. "He's seeking to spill the beans and he's hoping to be implicated in a lot of people," says John Rogers, head of the Freedom of Human Rights group. But will they be dead or alive?



AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI HANDING OUT REBUSES FROM CAR HORN

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad might be the rebel face of an official Iranian war-torn nation, but he's not a rebel. He's a spokesman. Ayatollah Khamenei, the religious leader publicly rebuked the president when two hardline newspapers, including one owned by Khamenei, asked Ahmadinejad to go away from the contentious nuclear issue. The populist president has loudly asserted Iran's "nuclear right" to go ahead with its nuclear program. Inexplicable to his message, the UN Security Council passed a resolution last month banning the inside of nuclear technology to Iran. While it was not saying the country would give up nuclear ambitions, Khamenei's followers believe that the diplomatic situation required "some more negotiations and international coordination"—in other words, Khamenei, Ahmadinejad, put a sock in it.



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media

The other day I was giving a speech in Washington and, in the questions afterwards, the subject of *Little Mosque on the Prairie* came up.

"Muslims are the new gay," I said. "Which got a laugh. 'That's off the record,' I added. 'I was reporting chance of getting home since.' And I went on to explain that back in the nineties, scientists and movies began introducing gay characters who were the most likable and got all the best lines, and that Muslims were likely to be the lucky beneficiaries of a similar trope revision. In both cases, the result is the same: to make Islam, like homosexuality, something only negative squares are associated with."

At the time I hadn't seen as much as critics for *Little Mosque*. But it seemed a reasonable enough assumption that nine times out of 10 the joke would be on the "irrational" prejudices and deeply ingrained ignorance of the Saskatchewan kids. And sure enough, if you wanted news to watch the first episode, it opened up with some strong stamp-to-their-neckback rambling on a bunch of Muslims protesting and ranting for the telephone. "Is this the Toronto Attack Hotline? You want me to hold?"

Well, of course, the local Anglican vicar tries to explain that he's just joined the parish hall to a harden group of local Mohitramedians. "This is simply a pilot program," he says reasonably.

"What?" groans the radiohead. "They're trying to picket?" And off he goes on the radio-radio blowhard who is, naturally, a right wing hate monger.

Meanwhile, the mosque's daily news items is starting to sound like fight and picking one his colleague about how making the gag in Mercy, Saskatchewan, is going to be even worse. Another passenger overheard that last word and the guy pulled the guy out of line, and

THE LITTLE MOSQUE THAT COULDN'T

We're so boundlessly tolerant we tolerate endless dreary shows about how intolerant we are

BY MARK STEYN

public apologies and undergoing sensitivity training, and that, in the event they do bust up a terrorist plot, the Moslems inevitably associate themselves saying that is no way reflects on any particular community in our glorious Canadian mosaic, particularly any community beginning with "Is" and ending with "lan", and that the most prominent Canadians "volunteering" for good works

in Afghanistan were the Khadr family, whose son was sprung from the Canadian Prisoner by Prince Minister Christian in order that he could reassure his "charity work" and, for his pains, he had to suffer vicious Islamophobic headlines like "Caught in a bind: an arrested and unclear appeal for Christian's help" (Maclean's).

Never mind all that. There is after all no sense harping on tradition in Canadian popular culture—well, okay, unpopular culture: it's the CBC, after all—than the pleasant frisson induced by the routine portrayal of real



THE COOLEST MUSLIM-YET: CBC's *Little Mosque on the Prairie*

gone here the third degree:

"You lived for over a year in Afghanistan?"

"I was volunteering for a development agency," says the matrimonial cupcake-swilling imam, who's very droll about his predicament: if my story doesn't hold up, he cracks, "you can report me to Syria."

"Hey," warns the boss fastest sternly, "you do not get to choose which country we deport you to."

But enough. Never mind that, in the real Canada, the radio-radio guy would have off the air and hounded into oblivion by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, and that, instead of looking like Rick Mercer after 20 minutes on a radioed and being any self-deprecating and Toronto-born, your typical Western Muslim is fiercely bearded, trained in Saudi Arabia, and such language desecration as he has is confined to Arabic and that strident officials who berate suspicious Muslims from the flight wheel up snaking.

Canadian as halibut cokedale. One would characterize it as Canadianophobic were it not for the fact that the CBC's enthusiasm for portraying us as a nation of knuckle-dragging steel-slagger reflexless over-sensitiveness is one of the most progressive people on the planet: we celebrate diversity through the ruthless homogeneity of CBC programming, we're so boundlessly tolerant we tolerate as smitten parade of dreary sitcoms and dramas about how intolerant we are. In that sense, these radio-radio caricatures are a way of betwixting the audience to the second episode of *Little Mosque*, for example, the new Muslim pals of Mercy stage a protest against the mosque weary single women in the match-a-liege and phlox and temple-mirrored. The only white folks who aren't condemned to are the convert wife of the Muslim parish and the improbably eucalyptus Anglican ambassador (though his church, unlike the mosque, is dying).



HUGH LAURIE as Dr. Gregory House insults everybody, including critically ill patients. His colleagues are much nicer, but not as smart.

What's with all the rude meanies?

Some of the most popular TV characters these days are anti-social and unpleasant

BY JAMIE A. WEIDMAN • "Lisability." That was the weatherman on U.S. television. His leading character, so smart, so charming, so likeable, so what they did, had to be brutally likeable, decent people. Then came a drug-addicted, misanthropic doctor, a detective with obsessive-compulsive disorder, and a male industry expert who specializes in charming young people's dreams.

These used to be fairly rare traits to allow unpleasant characters could be and still be considered the hero, but those traits have recently made disappeared in recent years. Once upon a time, the most popular TV doctor was Hawkeye on M*A*S*H, who easily needed and authority figures. Today, the successful prime-time doctor of choice is Dr. House (Hugh Laurie), who insults everybody, including critically ill patients, and makes viewers love him for it.

John Turner is associate professor of psychology at San Diego State University and author of the book *Constraining Mr. Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and More Misanthropic Than Ever Before*. She says that it's easy to see why many became as popular. "Our culture prizes the idea that it's good not to worry what other people think of you. Of course, that is a mistaken idea, because it really is important what other people think of us." A character like House (House winner Tony Danza), or even *Twilight*, the despotic vampire on *The Shield* (which was an *Entertainment Weekly* pick), provides a kind of wish-fulfillment, because we would like to behave

it's all right to lack any social graces at all.

There's another reason why we love these characters, even though we'd want to smack them if we met them on the street. It's because they project an image of super competence, and the episodes imply that they wouldn't be as good if they weren't so annoying. House's brilliance as a detective derives directly from his psychological problems, which allow him to observe things that normal people can't. House creator David Shore has admitted that his inspiration was Sherlock Holmes (House = Holmes, get it?), and both characters were the impression that being an anti-social makes them more effective at their work. House's colleagues are much nicer people than he is, but they can't get the job done the way he can, and the things that make them miserable are the very things that keep them from being quite good enough.

Even though *American Idol* is supposedly a fun-fiction show, its "characters" have a similar dynamic. Simon Cowell is a jerk and a snob, but his observations are on target. When he says things like "you are the worst singer in the world," he's at least trying to help people from wasting their lives trying to make it in the music business. The other judges try to sugar coat the advice they give, they hold back to spare people's feelings. And they're not nearly as helpful as Simon.



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER. ACCORDING TO TV Schwartzegger is recovering from his broken leg. He's really taking a little bit of pain medication. "I've got guidelines for speech. Apparently he broke his leg in 1984." —Carson O'Connell "You know who won the Golden Globe for best actor? Not that Burt Reynolds (Satchel Barton Cohen). He was the weekly loser with the second stringing and all that. No, that was Arnold Schwarzenegger." —Gene L. Sizemore

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Erin Davis & Mike Cooper in the morning.

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Photo: John Wiles



MARIAH CAREY with U.S. troops in Kosovo. The performers Canada sends to entertain troops aren't even that close to the A-list

Couldn't we at least send Rush?

The 2006 USO roster included Kid Rock. We lined up three also-rans from 'Rockstar: INXS.'

BY AARON KIKERST • Kid Rock is no Bob Hope. The two have almost nothing in common. Sure for the fact that they have both now travelled overseas to entertain American forces—Kid Rock waving Iraq over Christmas last year, though far removed from the days of Hope, the famed USO still fielded a roster in 2004 that included the likes of Chuck Norris, Carrie Underwood, Miley Cyrus, Toby Keith and the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders—even Lindsay Lohan has vowed to make the trip. By comparison, the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency dispatched a group to Afghanistan in November that included a former Star Search champion, there also was from Rockstar 2003, and a runner-up from Canadian Idol. “They’re not finishing acts necessarily,” contends Jim Penney, CFPSA director of deployment services, “but they’re upbeat and really quality. Good, solid, professional performers.”

Likewise, where the U.S. has a hallowed tradition, Canada has a blue-collar brigade. Where they’ve got big names and great air-drummers, we’ve got a modest collection of the earnest and entertaining. When they have Kid Rock, we have Julian Austin. “That’s the thing that kind of gives me off,” says Austin, a country singer with three previous releases and some hard living to boot. “The Canadian soldiers, our troops, deserve bigger than myself and bigger than the act that has gone over. The men and women that are over there deserve the best.”

When Austin was 18, his father, a Second World War veteran, tried to convince him to enter the military, but Austin decided a doctorate he now regrets. Years later, he is apparently trying to make up for lost time: To date, he’s made half a dozen trips over-

seas and hopes to be back in Afghanistan this May. He’s also recorded a song, *The Red and White*, in tribute to the Canadian forces. “They nicknamed me GI John,” he says, “and some people call me a mascot now and an ambassador. I guess it’s just something in the morale department that apparently they haven’t had for a long time.”

For the Canadian military, beyond the morale boost there is also, obviously, the publicity gained from some thing like the recent Christmas visit of Canadian Rick Mercer and others to Afghanistan. “We educate other Canadians about what we do,” says Laurie Des Roches, manager of national visibility programs for the Department of National Defence. “It’s another perspective. It’s not the media perspective, it’s not the politicians, but it’s what honest Canadians—people that we live and work on TV—

think DVD and CFPSA, an agency of DVD, run programs to entertain troops. While DVD sends celebrities to volunteer their time, CFPSA takes producers to one-on-one bad. Such offers are then reviewed for quality and cost to well as language requirements. Why neither program has yet to gain greater prominence is apparently a complicated question. For one, Des Roches notes, even life insurance policies don’t cover war zones. CFPSA will help cover insurance costs, but

in many cases it comes off as top-tier talent. “The music generally isn’t with the cameramen, it’s with the agents,” Penney says. “Because what we pay is less than they would get if they booked themselves Place [en Oiseau].”

But how much should serve to the country pay? “I’m pretty sure that some of the guys, like the Tragically Hip, who seem to be very proud Canadians, would jump a couple of bucks to be a part of something much, much bigger,” says Joey Blais, a Montreal musician who has travelled to Afghanistan, Rwanda and Haiti. “It almost always comes down to scheduling.” Mercer says, “It’s just hard to get people to find a week, let alone a Christmas. But once I’ve ever spoken to, they’re almost universally interested in doing it.”

The Tragically Hip and their label declined comment. Regardless, the problem might simply be a case of choice—both the Canadian Forces, and subsequently those charged with entertaining them, lack the glamour of the American military machine. “The country gets run over because it’s about the type of thing that’s perhaps done or it doesn’t seem like it’s done,” Mercer says. “That’s just one of those odd Canadian things.”

And so, in the absence of a Canadian tradition, it’s left to the likes of Austin and Blais. “I know people in the States who used to look forward to Bob Hope specials because it was kind of nostalgic about over,” Blais recalls. “Where over here, it’s who does go over?” ■



PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK THE FEATHERS FLY

There’s pillow talk and then there’s pillow fighting. No doubt! Thinking that the latter might lead to the former, perhaps with the help of a big slicker tub, a downtown Winnipeg hotel staged a massive pillow war to where 150 young professional men and women took turns bashing each other witless. Organizers said the unusual mating game helped the hotel’s stressed-out patrons to relax, and that it was inspired by similar events in the U.S.

MAGGIE'S FEB. 26 '07



SYLVIA PLATH (LEFT), ANNE WEILL and her daughters, SHIRLEY (middle), Ted Hughes (right). Both Plath and Weill committed suicide

Ted and Sylvia and Assia and David

The 'other woman' in the breakup of modern poetry's most famous couple gets her due

We didn't find her—the friend in / She smiled at us out... / She sat there / Slightly flirty with evasive mystery / (Landscape desecrated by her / Had fallen in love with one and she did not know it / That moment the dreamer in us / Fell as love with her, and I knew it—Ted Hughes

BY BRIAN KOTHE • On March 13, 1969, Assia Weill, the "slightly flirty" lover of Hughes's poems, hung up the telephone in her London flat after another disappointing quarrel with him. She must have made a snap decision soon after, according to Israeli journalist Tehuda Keren and later Noyes in their compelling biography *Letter of Unwitnessed*. Weill tested down handfuls of barbiturates with that fatalistic, pulled-up-blouse-the-four-year-old daughter she had with Hughes—went to the kitchen, opened the gas valves, and killed herself and her child. It had been barely six years since Sylvia Plath, Hughes's American wife and the woman whose long shadow fell heavily on Weill, committed suicide as easily as the next mannequin.

Plath was once accorded to iconic status, both as a writer and as a feminist martyr for those who never read a line of verse. Plath's seven-year marriage to Hughes, later Britain's poet laureate, once made them the most celebrated couple in 20th-century poetry, since her death, it has entered the canon of mythology. Hughes is generally, almost universally named Plath's female fate, accorded the villain role—the instigator of the male urge to suck the creative (and, sometimes, literal) life force out of the woman in their lives. It was an incredible development in their time. Plath's confessional verse—her first poems written in the months before her death—coincided with the ebb of the feminist rev-

olution, for a poet, her tenderness is legions and erotically intense.

Nor did circumstances cast Hughes in a good light. The couple had been separated for six months before Plath's suicide in February 1962. During that unusually cold winter, Plath—who battled depression her whole life—lived alone with two very young children, under harsh financial circumstances. Meanwhile, Hughes had taken up with Weill, and Plath learned of her pregnancy just before her suicide. (Weill, in turn, had an abortion after she heard of Plath's death.)

Above all, Plath was dead and Hughes was still alive. After Weill's suicide, Hughes was still alive, and two women were dead. To Josephine Desai White, a freelance biographer who wrote in a biography, *How Two Girls Looked Deep Dark*, Plath was a steady stream of women while Plath's gaze over the years, but a childbearing "Hughes" off her husband's. One of her feminist commentators contrasted to publish articles like "Ted Hughes: A Talented Murderer."

In contrast to Plath's fate, Weill was largely forgotten, despite having been tragically attractive to almost every man who met her, and an erotically iconic as "Desai's" portraits her home in Berlin to a Russian Jewish father and a German Lutheran mother, raised in Tel Aviv and educated in

Vancouver. Weill's place as "the other woman" in the triangular tragedy did not fit easily into what rapidly became a feminist, literary Sylvia. Weill story lives with Hughes was a 19-year-old "Desai's," it was from his and his wife's point of view "She smiled at us out." It's an unbroken fact, according to Keren and Noyes, one they're determined to restore.

Born into relative luxury in Berlin in 1927, Assia fled Germany in 1933 with her family. Settling first in Tel Aviv, the Germans were determined to get back to Europe after the Second World War ended. Assia was sent ahead, to attend an school in London—and to marry a British man in the end: Ted Hughes. After the wedding, he could sponsor the rest of the family.

John Steele did the reluctant but brutal dual dual dual after her 20th birthday, but soon treated her with the same she was going to emigrate to British Columbia. Assia was as appalled—no end of English friends explained to Keren and Noyes that being a housewife like Canada "wasn't useful or useful death toll."—that she promptly fled to 30 Argente and had to have her head shaved, Vancouver proved acceptable enough. After she and Steele divorced, Assia embarked on a series of affairs while studying at UBC—including a brief fling, according to *Letter of Unwitnessed*, with poetic poet Karl Kram.

Not none of these affairs gave Assia what the crowd spiritual and social moment without a line of secret comfort. She implor-

edly accepted a marriage proposal from Dick Lipsey, later disfigured and weakly married, but then an impressionist grad student. She convinced him to do his diploma at the London School of Economics. One frequent visitor to this flat was a fellow LSE student, Jacques Prevert. The future surrealist poet of Quebec "was quietly in love" with Assia, Lipsey recalls. Then, on a 1956 voyage back from a Canadian vacation, Assia met and fell in love with the man who would become her third husband.

"Seven years between us / Seven planets, seven moons covered with blood," wrote David Weill in 2001 about the most older woman who had been in love with her. Now a prominent Canadian poet, David Weill in 1958 was a 21-year-old Cambridge student. He and Assia had a long and happy affair before finally marrying in 1966, with day jobs in advertising and copies full of poetry. Then, in late 1961, the Weills wanted to set up a flat in Tel Aviv. Plath and Hughes wanted to move to the country. None of them had met before,

AT ONE, ASSIA HAD A BRIEF FLING WITH POET KARL KRAM. LATER, IN LONDON, JACQUES PREVERT WAS QUIETLY IN LOVE WITH HER.

the one a surprising and, and David called it a 30-day escape, apparently a regular visit to her at her dad's destroyed in a job offer. Reeling the experience, the fling it was a gift from Assia, to Keren and Noyes, it was "a dead love, like a bullet striking a running animal." Four days later, she was dead.

It is possible to guess the sort of future Weill and Hughes might have had under more solid circumstances—given their past track records, happily ever after was hardly in the cards. But Plath's suicide caused the never had a divorce. Pressure came from the outside, when Plath's family agreed to bring Hughes's children to America and Plath's already estranged friends were further angered by Assia's refusal to let Plath go about her death. "Why should I?" she seemed to

The two couples spent the next few months in the sort of mutual half-life existence in the dissolution of all Assia's errors. Each of the four had their own response. David, deeply shocked, took to his bed and went long for Hughes, falling to dead him, he returned home and swallowed 30 Serenals. Assia found him at midnight, and called an ambulance in time. Weill, who has never said anything had about his wife with, hoped she'd get over Hughes and was in no hurry for divorce. That meant Assia being alone with her nightmarish scenario. She never also dated any man after her husband without being sure of the rest.

And the Plath-Hughes relationship was beautifully complex. Plath was a constant, change moment in rage, unconsciously planning a holiday with Hughes and obsessively planning it alone. Assia the devoted not only is religious, but the prospect of poetry Hughes, meanwhile, shrank from it to intimacy and back, something or unable to consent to either. By November, Ted and

Sylvia were in separate London flats. On Feb. 7, 1961, Plath wrote to Ted Hughes to tell him the dad's was a divorce after all. While there she was a surprising and, and David called it a 30-day escape, apparently a regular visit to her at her dad's destroyed in a job offer. Reeling the experience, the fling it was a gift from Assia, to Keren and Noyes, it was "a dead love, like a bullet striking a running animal." Four days later, she was dead.

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PLATH'S BESTSELLERS

(compiled by Brian Kothe)

Position	Last week (out of 100)
1. HOTHORN AND SONS by Colin Toker	3-21
2. HOUSE OF NIGHTINGALE by Mark Smith	18
3. ISABEL by Guy Gavriel Kay	5-13
4. THE CUSTODIAN OF PARADISE by Wayne Johnston	1-101
5. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE by Mary Larkin	6-12
6. LUKE PRANSKY by John Murnaghan	1-12
7. THE VIEW FROM CASTLE ROCK by John Murnaghan	2-101
8. BEHIND THE SCENE by David Hogg	6-13
9. THE LAY OF DREAMS by Peter Binkley	10-11
10. SECRET FROM THE VINYL CAPE by Stuart McLean	4-102

Non-fiction	Last week (out of 100)
1. THE GOD DELUSION by Richard Dawkins	3-10
2. PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID by Jimmy Carter	4-10
3. SPRINKLING LIES: THE ENEMY OF TRUTH by Ray Charles Brown	7-1
4. THE LIFE OF KINGSLLEY AINS by Doreen Lister	10-1
5. COOKING & SLAYING BLACK by Tom Swartz	3-10
6. RIGHT SIDE UP by Paul Wells	1-10
7. NOODLE IN CHINA by Margaret MacLennan	1-10
8. THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S GATE by Adam Smith	1-10
9. THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE THUNDERBOLT by Bill Brown	1-10
10. WHAT PAUL MEANT by Gary Wells	1-10

as a writer, "It was nothing to do with me." But the story was not so simple. In her diary, Assia recorded her "great deal, that she was becoming Sylvia." "What if I was fixed to see her when she was looking, what, in five years time, will be reproached for? Neither the best of Shura nor her divorce brought them to marriage or even a shared home. When Hughes began to move on to other lovers, Assia began to think hard about walking down Plath's road. In January 1969, she wrote a suicide note, in March she acted.

For anyone outside the closed circle of Plath's family, it was odd, and very odd. Despite all the personal heroism, novelist Bill Wilson, who knew everyone involved, believed it was simply a matter of volatile people exploding in a volatile time. For all the sexual freedom of 1960s Britain, feminism still lay ahead. Plath and Weill, says Wilson, "were their lives in terms of being loved or not by a man. It wasn't meant to be abandoned, death was better than rejection." ■



FINALLY A BOOK ABOUT...ANTI-U.S. OPINION
Essays in Anti-Americanism by World Politics (Cornell UP) show that some anti-Americanism stems from the U.S. itself, and even in political science, while some is based on what the U.S. is, and is more permanent. As editors Peter Metzger and Robert K. Johnson note, "anti-Americanism" is not a new phenomenon. America for everyone, from godless science to religious fundamentalism, have been willing to do it in the under world.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL WHEELER. PICTURED BY MICHAEL WHEELER.

'HAPPY HAPPY, JOY JOY' wrote one fan of all-in-ones. Such devotion to any appliance is cause for concern, but makes the point:

The all-in-one laundry revolution

Why aren't machines that both wash and dry your clothes more popular in North America?

BY JASON KIRBY • For decades, the pale white washers and dryers were icons of domestic drudgery. Not anymore. For the stylish, space-conscious housewife, sleek new laundry appliances are quickly becoming the next big thing. Just as North America's taste in automobiles shifts to the monstrous, washers and dryers have grown bigger and more powerful. Today's do-it-all machines combine advanced super-capacity machines with powerful motors, all in the same footprint as the old. They're not just bigger, they're smarter. And they're more powerful. Today's do-it-all machines combine advanced super-capacity machines with powerful motors, all in the same footprint as the old. They're not just bigger, they're smarter.

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Many of those who have had their hands on it all in one are saying it: "Happy happy, joy joy!" one Canadian new owner wrote on an online product review site. "I've been waiting two years for this little baby, and can't wait to wash everything I own over the next few weeks!" Such devotion to any appliance is cause for concern, but makes the point:



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT: HARRISON'S WORDS
A sheet of paper with lyrics to White Men's Southern Gothic lyrics, handwritten by the late George Harrison, sold for \$150,000-\$200,000—some \$150,000 lower than expected—at an Antiques and Jewellery last week. The barely legible words are the earliest known version of the Beatles song released on the 1968 White Album and contain lines that didn't make the cut, for example, "As the sitting here looking not crying / Still my guitar gently weeps."

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DALE 'GUNDY' GUNDERSON

1946-2007

He loved his wife, his two sons, and hitting the trails. They were a snowmobile family.

Dale Gunderson, known to friends as "Gandy," was born on May 16, 1946, the first of Carl and Evelyn Gunderson's two boys. He lived his entire life in Wisconsin, Alta, a 90-minute drive northwest of Madison, where he operated a trailer park.

There are no so-to-speak private fields near Whittowest, pop. 1,234, which hails itself as the "sunshine capital of Alberta." So near the base of the foothills near Tockin, Whittowest is a lumber and energy town surrounded by rolling hills thick with pine and spruce. Dale's father, Carl, who died in 1978, was a night guard at Miller Woods Forest Products, one of three local mills. Dale was a quiet boy, rarely venturing beyond his mother, Evelyn, whom he married 35 last May. He graduated from Whittowest Central School, where he attended from Grade 1 on. After high school, he worked as a bull-dozing operator before starting work at the nearby Aspenoak gas plant in the mid-70s.

Dale started a dispute with Elaine Miller in 1968, when he was 22 and working for Ameco. "We started working on a nonexclusive basis," she says. "Years of going to the store, we would go into tremendous fights around Whitcomb." Though he later befriended Peters, Dale then drove a beat-up yellow 1967 Olds Del Rio, his first machine. He was to lose with his eye-band sport and hair-on-band get Elaine. It, had just finished screaming smoking in Baltimore, and had moved to Whitcomb to work for a local retailer. Six months after their first date, Dale proposed from the driver's seat of his silver blue Ford convertible. Dale's brother Brian thought Elaine was too young for marriage, and told his older sibling so. But Elaine and Dale knew they had a good thing going.

They were married in the summer of 1969, at the local United Church. Seven months later, in January 1970, they bought a 50-stall mobile-home park. Now expanded to 150 units, it's just a three-minute ride from their home. "Dale was in charge of all the maintenance," says Elaine, "snowplowing in the winter, and grading the roads in the summer." Elaine looked after the books.

In his spare time, Dale raced snowmobiles competitively on the local circuit. On the night Kelly, their first son, was born in 1972, he won the Kapp championship. "I was in the hospital in Whitecourt," says Elaine, "and he was in Calgary, getting his championship." Dale didn't see his first-born until the next morning.

though he would become a *dingy* father. A second son, Jason, followed in 1976. They were a automobile family, and spent work ends and holidays riding together in Alberta and British Columbia. Those were Dala's happiest moments.

Dale was tall and lean, always covered by his baggy and "blue" old Norwegian jacket," says Elaine. He never imagined him—he was too busy in the seasons, he tried to golf every day and he called twice a week in the winter. "He continued a family story as one poet," says Elaine. "Dale was slop, his mother played chop, Kelly played second and I played lead." He was a father figure to a number of young men, some working for the local energy outposts and the franchise laundries in southern and in Newfoundland. In 1996, the Winnipeg Free Press Tribune of Commerce memorialized him and Elaine's cruises of the year. "He loved Winnipeg," says Elaine. "He never wanted to leave."

On Sunday, Jan. 14, Dale left home on the back of his Polaris Dragon snowmobile to meet Jason, Matt, Gary, a close friend, and Brad Bonczek, a young man who, Elaine says, looked on Dale as a dad. At 6:30 a.m. the "Whisperer Trailblazers Snowmobile Club, Dale, who was named snowmobiler of the year by the Alberta Snowmobile Association in 1994, assisted someone who was stuck in a ditch while waiting for a tow. "He was the first person I ever knew," says Al Mandley, Dale's friend of 10 years.

The men met at the boat launch by the McDowell River, and left some to descend the Virginia Hillslope. "We were going to descend into the Eagle River (crossing what was once someone's farm) next," says Mink. "It was a huge, 14-ft-foot poplar, 100 yards across the trail, snagged up in some low lying trees." Dale cut through the 450-lb poplar, some damage had been done countless years before. "It should have fallen down half-width the slope, the way it was leaning," says Mink. "I was left half on the slope, crawling onto Dale." The once colorful forest floor, fresh with its rhubarb and a log. "He never took another step," says Mink. That afternoon, Elaine watched her boy, now fathers themselves, ride up alone without his dad. The day after Dale's 16th birthday was on Jan. 16, attended by his mother as well as 1,000 people, 80 new members gathered at the Roundhouse park. After breakfast, they headed out in groups of six or eight to begin the trail. "They left them in pairs and then, just the way Dale, not out of any other safety, had taught them."

HY BRISTE MACROMALS

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